فى درب الحياة

المحتويات

فى أعماق الصراعات

المنطقة تسير فى طريق ملئ بالكفاح المستمر الذى لا ينتهى، والذى فيه من
المصاعب الكثير، وهذا لا ينكره احد، وهذه هى الحياة التى لابد من ان يعمل كلا
منا، من اجل ان يعيش وان يحقق ما يريده ويحلم به ويطمح إليه، وان من جد وجد
ومن زرع حصد ولكل مجتهد نصيب. يجب بان نؤدى الاعمال والمهام المطلوبه،
وما يمكن بان يكون عليها الطلب من اجل مزيدا من العطاء ومزيدا مما نريد بان
نحققه من انجازات سوف تكون لنا دعما وسندا وفخرا بما قد تعلمنا واستفدناه
وخوض فيه، واستطعنا بعد ذلك بان نحقق افضل ما يمكن من النتائج الايجابية
التى سوف تستمر وتتواصل وهذا مما يعتبر من النجاح وتحقيق الاهداف.
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قضايا المنطقة صعبة ومعقدة، واصبحت فى تلك الحالة التى تصل إلى حد اليأس من وجود المعالجة الايجابية والصحيحة، وانما ما يحدث هو محاولات من اجل ايجاد البدائل التى من شأنها بان تخفف وطأة الوضع، وان يصبح هناك المسار البديل، وليس مسار الحل المنشود. إن المنطقة كما يقولون تخرج من حفرة لتقع فى دحدارة، وانها تظل فى مكافحة التوترات الشديدة، وانها معالجات بمسكنات مؤقتة، لم تحقق الاستقرار النهائى، وتظل على حافة الهاوية بين لحظة واخرى. إذا العمل الجاد الدؤوب الاخلاص الامانة إلى اخر هذه القائمة من المواصفات الايجابية والتى لا بديل عنها فى الالتزام بها، والسير قدما من اجل الخروج مما ألم بالمنطقة من جروح وألالام واحزان، لم يداويها الزمن، بل تحتاج إلى التعاون الايجابى من الجميع فى السير قدما نحو تحقيق ما تنشده شعوب المنطقة فى العيش الكريم والمستقبل الافضل، وان لا نظل فى هذه الدوامة التى لا تنتهى.

تحديات المنطقة ليست بالسهلة، فبها من الصعوبات والتعقيدات ما تعجز عنه الدول الكبرى عن ايجاد الحلول الضرورية لها، وما يمكن بان يؤدى إلى المسار الصحيح السليم فى تحقيق افضل المستويات المنشودة للمنطقة، وتحقيق ما تنشده شعوبها من أهداف. إن هناك صراعات داخلية لا احد يرضى بان يكون هناك اية تدخلات اجنبية لمعالجاتها، وان يتم ايجاد الحلول لها وما يمكن بان يؤدى إلى افضل المسارات لها من خلال الحوارات التى تتم فى نظام سياسي يرتضيه الشعب، وان لا يصبح هناك من العنف الذى يؤدى إلى التدمير والاذى والخطر الذى يلحق بالبلاد والعباد. إن المنطقة لا تكون قد اعتادت على ذلك، فى معالجات قضاياها، ولكن الاستمرار فى نفس النمط الذى يؤدى إلى العنف لا يحقق الاهداف التى يرتجى لها من شعوب المنطقة. وسيظل الوضع فى دوامة لا تنتهى، وهذا ما

اصبحنا نراه اليوم فى ظل هذه السياسات التى تتخبط، ويحدث التدهور والتوتر ولا يرتقى بالشعوب إلى المستويات التى تحقق لهم افضل ما يمكن بان يجدوه من متطلباتهم واحتياجاهم الضرورية. قد يكون هناك الشعور بان تغيرا ما قد تحقق، ولكن قد لا نجد استقرار ومسارات حضارية تحقق الانجازات التى تنقل بالشعوب من اوضاع المعاناة إلى الرفاهية والوضع الافضل من حياة كريمة تحيا فى ظلها.

إن أزمات المنطقة فى غاية الصعوبة والتعقيد، ولذلك فيها تستمر وتتواصل لفترات متلاحقة، ولا يتم حلها بالسهولة المتوفعة، مهام تم الاستعانة بالخبراء والمختصين من الداخل والخارج، وما كنا نظنه بانه سوف ينتهى وتحدث الحالة التى تنشدها شعوب المنطقة، فإننا نجد بان هناك المزيد من تلك الصعوبات والتعقيدات قد توالدت واصبح هناك مسارات اكثر تعقيدا واشد صعوبة. إذا ما هى الاسباب لذلك، ولماذا تظهر الازمات بالمنطقة، ولماذا معالجاتها تكلف الكثير من الخسائر البشرية والمادية والمعنوية، ويحدث الانفلات الامنى ومزيدا من الفوضى، وما يؤدى إلى تصاعد للعنف وما لا تحمد عقباه. إن المنطقة مشكلاتها فى العمق، والتى تحتاج إلى معالجات جذرية، حيث ان ما يحدث لها من اعطائها المسكنات، لا تؤدى إلى تلك الاوضاع المنشودة من الاستقرار، ولذلك تتكرر تلك الاسباب التى تؤدى إلى حدوث تلك الانتكاسات فى مساراها الصحيح والسليم. المنطقة فى حاجة إلى تلك الدعائم القوية والراسخة التى تحدث لها ما يجعلها تنتقل من مراحل التوتر والتدهور، إلى مراحل الاستقرار والازدهار، وهذا ليس بمستحيل إلى ما تم توافر المواصفات لذلك، وهى متوافرة، ولكنها تحتاج إلى العمل الجاد والاخلاص والامانة وكل تلك العوامل التى تساعد على النهوض بالامة من كبوتها التى انزلقت إليها، والغفلة التى وقعت فيها.

المنافسة الشديدة بين الشركات العملاقة فى مجالات التقنيات الحديثة تجعلها تطور من خدماتها، والتى تستخدم فيها افضل الاساليب والوسائل الممكنة والمتاحة، من اجل تقديم افضل ما يمكن من خدماتها إلى مستخدميها. وعلى مستخدمى هذه الخدمات بان يكونوا دائما على الاستعداد لما يحدث من متغيرات وتوافر للبدائل المتاحة والمتطورة، والتى تؤدى إلى افضل ما يمكن من الحصول على هذه المنتجات وخدماتها من هذه الشركات العملاقة فى مختلف المجالات، وخاصة مجال المعلومات والتقنيات الحديثة.

الاوضاع الراهنة فى المنطقة فى حاجة إلى متابعة من جانب المختصين ايا ما كانت تلك الاحوال سواءا اكانت مستقرة فيكون هناك الدعم الضرورى لذلك والحفاظ على ما وصلت إليه المنطقة من استقرار وهدوء كلى او نسبى، وان يتم السير قدما نحو ما هو افضل فى تحقيق المستويات الارقى، والتى تنشدها شعوب المنطقة، وإما إذا ما كانت المنطقة فى حالة من التوترات الخفيفة او الشديدة، فإنه لابد من العمل على تحقيق ما يؤدى إلى تصحيح المسار نحو الاستقرار، وهناك ثقة بان المنطقة بها من المسئولين ذوى العلم والخبرة والحكمة والقدرة على القيام بدورهم على اكمل وجه، والوصول إلى تحقيق الاهداف المنشودة، بحيث يمكن بان يصبح هناك تحقيق اهداف المنطقة وما تنشده الشعوب من اوضاع افضل فى حياة كريمة واستقرار.

دول على قمة الاقتصاد العالمى، والتى تغزو منتجاتها العالم، واستطاعت بان تصبح فى مستوى تنافسى خطير، لا شك بان التعاون بينهما افضل من ان تستمر الحرب البادرة بينهما فى مجال الاقتصاد والتجارة.

الهند وباكستان ... الصراع بين الدولتين الجارتين النوويتين لم يتوقف، ولكنه يهدأ بعض الوقت ثم يحدث التوتر الخطير مرة اخرى، مما ينذر بكارثة نووية فى شبه الجزيرة الهندية والتى سيمتد اثرها المدمر والخطير إلى باقى انحاء القارة الاسيوية. إذا لابد من ان يحدث سلام بين الدولتين الجارتين ويصبح هناك التعاون بدلا من ان نجد بان هناك ذلك الخطر المتربص والمتوقع إذا ما حدثت تلك الازمة الخطيرة التى من الممكن بان تؤدى إلى نشوب الحرب النووية ذات نتائج واثار فى غاية الخطورة.

إن الطاقة هى عصب الحياة فلا يوجد من لا يستطيع الاستغناء عن الطاقة فى العالم، ولذلك فالكل يبحث عن البدائل المتنوعة التى يمكن له بان تؤدى له اعماله ومهامه المختلفة، وان المنطقة لها الكثير منها، ولذلك فهى موقع جيد وممتاز للاستثمارات الاجنبية وغيرها فى هذا المجال الحيوى فى عالمنا المعاصر.

معاناة الشعوب من المشكلات المستعصية على الحل والمعالجات إذا ما اصبح هناك فوضى وعدم إتخاذ الاجراءات الصحيحة والاجراءات المصاحبة لها، والتى قد يصبح هناك وضعا فيه انتقال من حال إلى حال، ولكنه ليس الحل الاكيد

والعلاج الناجع، وإنما قد يكون مثل من خرج من حفرة ووقع فى حفرة أخرى، اى بانه قد يكون هناك التخلص من مشكلة للعودة إلى مشكلة اخرى قد تكون اكثر صعوبة واشد تعقيدا، وليست بالوضع المستقر الصحيح الذى فيه اختيار المسار نحو افضل ما يمكن تحقيقه من النتائج المرجوة والمنشودة لشعوب المنطقة. إنه ايضا لابد من الدعم المستمر والمتواصل الذى يؤدى إلى تحقيق افضل تلك المعالجات وما يمكن بان يكون هناك من الاستمرارية والمواصلة فى السير فى المسار الذى يحقق الاهداف المرجوة، بافضل النتائج التنافسية فى فترة ما، ومرحلة ما، وهى المرحلة الانتقالية والحرجة من تاريخ المنطقة فى ان تصل إلى ما يحمد عقباه، وان الكل ليرجوا ذلك، وان ينتهى التوتر ويعود الاستقرار إلى افضل حالاته واوضاعه.

توترات مستمرة تعصف فى كل مكان على مختلف المستويات والمناطق، وما اصبح هناك صراعات داخلية قد يكون فيها من التدخلات الاجنبية إذا ما لزم الامر وتعارضت السياسية واصبح هناك خطر على المصالح الاجنبية والداخلية، وما قد يحدث كارثة، وينذر بالخطر الوبيل. إن التدهورات السياسية تؤدى إلى حدوث الفوضى والانفلات الامنى وتصاعد العنف، والذى لا يأمن جانبه ايا من كان، من مواطنين واجانب، وما يستوجب الامر ان يكون هناك ما يؤدى إلى الانقاذ، حتى لا يمتد الصراع إلى نطاق اوسع واشمل، ويزلزل ارجاء المنطقة بأكملها ولا يصبح مقصورا على هذه الدولة بذاتها، وانما هى العلاقات التى قد تكون متشابكة ومترابطة فى المصالح والعلاقات ومقومات كثيرة قد يصعب الانفصال منها، فيزداد الوضع صعوبة وتعقيدا، ويؤدى إلى ما لا يحمد عقباه، من نتائج مرفوضة ومسارات مغلقة ومسدودة وانفاق مظلمة.

المنطقة تسير فى طريق ملئ بالكفاح المستمر الذى لا ينتهى، والذى فيه من المصاعب الكثير، وهذا لا ينكره احد، وهذه هى الحياة التى لابد من ان يعمل كلا منا، من اجل ان يعيش وان يحقق ما يريده ويحلم به ويطمح إليه، وان من جد وجد ومن زرع حصد ولكل مجتهد نصيب. يجب بان نؤدى الاعمال والمهام المطلوبه، وما يمكن بان يكون عليها الطلب من اجل مزيدا من العطاء ومزيدا مما نريد بان نحققه من انجازات سوف تكون لنا دعما وسندا وفخرا بما قد تعلمنا واستفدناه وخوض فيه، واستطعنا بعد ذلك بان نحقق افضل ما يمكن من النتائج الايجابية التى سوف تستمر وتتواصل وهذا مما يعتبر من النجاح وتحقيق الاهداف.

قضايا المنطقة صعبة ومعقدة، واصبحت فى تلك الحالة التى تصل إلى حد اليأس من وجود المعالجة الايجابية والصحيحة، وانما ما يحدث هو محاولات من اجل ايجاد البدائل التى من شأنها بان تخفف وطأة الوضع، وان يصبح هناك المسار البديل، وليس مسار الحل المنشود. إن المنطقة كما يقولون تخرج من حفرة لتقع فى دحدارة، وانها تظل فى مكافحة التوترات الشديدة، وانها معالجات بمسكنات مؤقتة، لم تحقق الاستقرار النهائى، وتظل على حافة الهاوية بين لحظة واخرى. إذا العمل الجاد الدؤوب الاخلاص الامانة إلى اخر هذه القائمة من المواصفات الايجابية والتى لا بديل عنها فى الالتزام بها، والسير قدما من اجل الخروج مما ألم بالمنطقة من جروح وألالام واحزان، لم يداويها الزمن، بل تحتاج إلى التعاون الايجابى من الجميع فى السير قدما نحو تحقيق ما تنشده شعوب المنطقة فى العيش الكريم والمستقبل الافضل، وان لا نظل فى هذه الدوامة التى لا تنتهى.

تحديات المنطقة ليست بالسهلة، فبها من الصعوبات والتعقيدات ما تعجز عنه الدول الكبرى عن ايجاد الحلول الضرورية لها، وما يمكن بان يؤدى إلى المسار الصحيح السليم فى تحقيق افضل المستويات المنشودة للمنطقة، وتحقيق ما تنشده شعوبها من أهداف. إن هناك صراعات داخلية لا احد يرضى بان يكون هناك اية تدخلات اجنبية لمعالجاتها، وان يتم ايجاد الحلول لها وما يمكن بان يؤدى إلى افضل المسارات لها من خلال الحوارات التى تتم فى نظام سياسي يرتضيه الشعب، وان لا يصبح هناك من العنف الذى يؤدى إلى التدمير والاذى والخطر الذى يلحق بالبلاد والعباد. إن المنطقة لا تكون قد اعتادت على ذلك، فى معالجات قضاياها، ولكن الاستمرار فى نفس النمط الذى يؤدى إلى العنف لا يحقق الاهداف التى يرتجى لها من شعوب المنطقة. وسيظل الوضع فى دوامة لا تنتهى، وهذا ما اصبحنا نراه اليوم فى ظل هذه السياسات التى تتخبط، ويحدث التدهور والتوتر ولا يرتقى بالشعوب إلى المستويات التى تحقق لهم افضل ما يمكن بان يجدوه من متطلباتهم واحتياجاهم الضرورية. قد يكون هناك الشعور بان تغيرا ما قد تحقق، ولكن قد لا نجد استقرار ومسارات حضارية تحقق الانجازات التى تنقل بالشعوب من اوضاع المعاناة إلى الرفاهية والوضع الافضل من حياة كريمة تحيا فى ظلها.

إن أزمات المنطقة فى غاية الصعوبة والتعقيد، ولذلك فيها تستمر وتتواصل لفترات متلاحقة،

ولا يتم حلها بالسهولة المتوقعة، مهام تم الاستعانة بالخبراء والمختصين من الداخل والخارج، وما كنا نظنه بانه سوف ينتهى وتحدث الحالة التى تنشدها شعوب المنطقة، فإننا نجد بان هناك المزيد من تلك الصعوبات والتعقيدات قد توالدت واصبح هناك مسارات اكثر تعقيدا واشد صعوبة. إذا ما هى الاسباب لذلك، ولماذا تظهر الازمات بالمنطقة، ولماذا معالجاتها تكلف الكثير من الخسائر البشرية والمادية والمعنوية، ويحدث الانفلات الامنى ومزيدا من الفوضى، وما يؤدى إلى تصاعد للعنف وما لا تحمد عقباه. إن المنطقة مشكلاتها فى العمق، والتى تحتاج إلى معالجات جذرية، حيث ان ما يحدث لها من اعطائها المسكنات، لا تؤدى إلى تلك الاوضاع المنشودة من الاستقرار، ولذلك تتكرر تلك الاسباب التى تؤدى إلى حدوث تلك الانتكاسات فى مساراها الصحيح والسليم. المنطقة فى حاجة إلى تلك الدعائم القوية والراسخة التى تحدث لها ما يجعلها تنتقل من مراحل التوتر والتدهور، إلى مراحل الاستقرار والازدهار، وهذا ليس بمستحيل إلى ما تم توافر المواصفات لذلك، وهى متوافرة، ولكنها تحتاح إلى العمل الجاد والاخلاص والامانة وكل تلك العوامل التى تساعد على النهوض بالامة من كبوتها التى انزلقت إليها، والغفلة التى وقعت فيها.

المنافسة الشديدة بين الشركات العملاقة فى مجالات التقنيات الحديثة تجعلها تطور من خدماتها، والتى تستخدم فيها افضل الاساليب والوسائل الممكنة والمتاحة، من اجل تقديم افضل ما يمكن من خدماتها إلى مستخدميها. وعلى مستخدمى هذه الخدمات بان يكونوا دائما على الاستعداد لما يحدث من متغيرات وتوافر للبدائل المتاحة والمتطورة، والتى تؤدى إلى افضل ما يمكن من الحصول على هذه المنتجات وخدماتها من هذه الشركات العملاقة فى مختلف المجالات، وخاصة مجال المعلومات والتقنيات الحديثة.

الاوضاع الراهنة فى المنطقة فى حاجة إلى متابعة من جانب المختصين ايا ما كانت تلك الاحوال سواءا اكانت مستقرة فيكون هناك الدعم الضرورى لذلك والحفاظ على ما وصلت إليه المنطقة من استقرار وهدوء كلى او نسبى، وان يتم السير قدما نحو ما هو افضل فى تحقيق المستويات الارقى، والتى تنشدها شعوب المنطقة، وإما إذا ما كانت المنطقة فى حالة من التوترات الخفيفة او الشديدة، فإنه لابد من العمل على تحقيق ما يؤدى إلى تصحيح المسار نحو الاستقرار، وهناك ثقة بان المنطقة بها من المسئولين ذوى العلم والخبرة والحكمة والقدرة على القيام بدورهم على اكمل وجه، والوصول إلى تحقيق الاهداف المنشودة، بحيث يمكن بان يصبح هناك تحقيق اهداف المنطقة وما تنشده الشعوب من اوضاع افضل فى حياة كريمة واستقرار.

دول على قمة الاقتصاد العالمى، والتى تغزو منتجاتها العالم، واستطاعت بان تصبح فى مستوى تنافسى خطير، لا شك بان التعاون بينهما افضل من ان تستمر الحرب البادرة بينهما فى مجال الاقتصاد والتجارة.

الهند وباكستان ... الصراع بين الدولتين الجارتين النوويتين لم يتوقف، ولكنه يهدأ بعض الوقت ثم يحدث التوتر الخطير مرة اخرى، مما ينذر بكارثة نووية فى شبه الجزيرة الهندية والتى سيمتد اثرها المدمر والخطير إلى باقى انحاء القارة الاسيوية. إذا لابد من ان يحدث سلام بين الدولتين الجارتين ويصبح هناك التعاون بدلا من ان نجد بان هناك ذلك الخطر المتربص والمتوقع إذا ما حدثت تلك الازمة الخطيرة التى من الممكن بان تؤدى إلى نشوب الحرب النووية ذات نتائج واثار فى غاية الخطورة.

إن الطاقة هى عصب الحياة فلا يوجد من لا يستطيع الاستغناء عن الطاقة فى العالم، ولذلك فالكل يبحث عن البدائل المتنوعة التى يمكن له بان تؤدى له اعماله ومهامه المختلفة، وان المنطقة لها الكثير منها، ولذلك فهى موقع جيد وممتاز للاستثمارات الاجنبية وغيرها فى هذا المجال الحيوى فى عالمنا المعاصر.

معاناة الشعوب من المشكلات المستعصية على الحل والمعالجات إذا ما اصبح هناك فوضى وعدم إتخاذ الاجراءات الصحيحة والاجراءات المصاحبة لها، والتى قد يصبح هناك وضعا فيه انتقال من حال إلى حال، ولكنه ليس الحل الاكيد والعلاج الناجع، وإنما قد يكون مثل من خرج من حفرة ووقع فى حفرة أخرى، اى بانه قد يكون هناك التخلص من مشكلة للعودة إلى مشكلة اخرى قد تكون اكثر صعوبة واشد تعقيدا، وليست بالوضع المستقر الصحيح الذى فيه اختيار المسار نحو افضل ما يمكن تحقيقه من النتائج المرجوة والمنشودة لشعوب المنطقة. إنه ايضا لابد من الدعم المستمر والمتواصل الذى يؤدى إلى تحقيق افضل تلك المعالجات وما يمكن بان يكون هناك من الاستمرارية والمواصلة فى السير فى المسار الذى يحقق الاهداف المرجوة، بافضل النتائج التنافسية فى فترة ما، ومرحلة ما، وهى المرحلة الانتقالية والحرجة من تاريخ المنطقة فى ان تصل إلى ما يحمد عقباه، وان الكل ليرجوا ذلك، وان ينتهى التوتر ويعود الاستقرار إلى افضل حالاته واوضاعه.

توترات مستمرة تعصف فى كل مكان على مختلف المستويات والمناطق، وما اصبح هناك صراعات داخلية قد يكون فيها من التدخلات الاجنبية إذا ما لزم الامر وتعارضت السياسية واصبح هناك خطر على المصالح الاجنبية والداخلية، وما قد يحدث كارثة، وينذر بالخطر الوبيل. إن التدهورات السياسية تؤدى إلى حدوث الفوضى والانفلات الامنى وتصاعد العنف، والذى لا يأمن جانبه ايا من كان، من مواطنين واجانب، وما يستوجب الامر ان يكون هناك ما يؤدى إلى الانقاذ، حتى لا يمتد الصراع إلى نطاق اوسع واشمل، ويزلزل ارجاء المنطقة بأكملها ولا يصبح مقصورا على هذه الدولة بذاتها، وانما هى العلاقات التى قد تكون متشابكة ومترابطة فى المصالح والعلاقات ومقومات كثيرة قد يصعب الانفصال منها، فيزداد الوضع صعوبة وتعقيدا، ويؤدى إلى ما لا يحمد عقباه، من نتائج مرفوضة ومسارات مغلقة ومسدودة وانفاق مظلمة.

فى أعماق الصراعات

المنطقة تسير فى طريق ملئ بالكفاح المستمر الذى لا ينتهى، والذى فيه من المصاعب الكثير، وهذا لا ينكره احد، وهذه هى الحياة التى لابد من ان يعمل كلا منا، من اجل ان يعيش وان يحقق ما يريده ويحلم به ويطمح إليه، وان من جد وجد ومن زرع حصد ولكل مجتهد نصيب. يجب بان نؤدى الاعمال والمهام المطلوبه، وما يمكن بان يكون عليها الطلب من اجل مزيدا من العطاء ومزيدا مما نريد بان نحققه من انجازات سوف تكون لنا دعما وسندا وفخرا بما قد تعلمنا واستفدناه وخوض فيه، واستطعنا بعد ذلك بان نحقق افضل ما يمكن من النتائج الايجابية التى سوف تستمر وتتواصل وهذا مما يعتبر من النجاح وتحقيق الاهداف.

قضايا المنطقة صعبة ومعقدة، واصبحت فى تلك الحالة التى تصل إلى حد اليأس من وجود المعالجة الايجابية والصحيحة، وانما ما يحدث هو محاولات من اجل ايجاد البدائل التى من شأنها بان تخفف وطأة الوضع، وان يصبح هناك المسار البديل، وليس مسار الحل المنشود. إن المنطقة كما يقولون تخرج من حفرة لتقع فى دحدارة، وانها تظل فى مكافحة التوترات الشديدة، وانها معالجات بمسكنات مؤقتة، لم تحقق الاستقرار النهائى، وتظل على حافة الهاوية بين لحظة واخرى. إذا العمل الجاد الدؤوب الاخلاص الامانة إلى اخر هذه القائمة من المواصفات الايجابية والتى لا بديل عنها فى الالتزام بها، والسير قدما من اجل الخروج مما ألم بالمنطقة من جروح وألالام واحزان، لم يداويها الزمن، بل تحتاج إلى التعاون الايجابى من الجميع فى السير قدما نحو تحقيق ما تنشده شعوب المنطقة فى العيش الكريم والمستقبل الافضل، وان لا نظل فى هذه الدوامة التى لا تنتهى.

تحديات المنطقة ليست بالسهلة، فبها من الصعوبات والتعقيدات ما تعجز عنه الدول الكبرى عن ايجاد الحلول الضرورية لها، وما يمكن بان يؤدى إلى المسار الصحيح السليم فى تحقيق افضل المستويات المنشودة للمنطقة، وتحقيق ما تنشده شعوبها من أهداف. إن هناك صراعات داخلية لا احد يرضى بان يكون هناك اية تدخلات اجنبية لمعالجاتها، وان يتم ايجاد الحلول لها وما يمكن بان يؤدى إلى افضل المسارات لها من خلال الحوارات التى تتم فى نظام سياسي يرتضيه الشعب، وان لا يصبح هناك من العنف الذى يؤدى إلى التدمير والاذى والخطر الذى يلحق بالبلاد والعباد. إن المنطقة لا تكون قد اعتادت على ذلك، فى معالجات قضاياها، ولكن الاستمرار فى نفس النمط الذى يؤدى إلى العنف لا يحقق الاهداف التى يرتجى لها من شعوب المنطقة. وسيظل الوضع فى دوامة لا تنتهى، وهذا ما اصبحنا نراه اليوم فى ظل هذه السياسات التى تتخبط، ويحدث التدهور والتوتر ولا يرتقى بالشعوب إلى المستويات التى تحقق لهم افضل ما يمكن بان يجدوه من متطلباتهم واحتياجاهم الضرورية. قد يكون هناك الشعور بان تغيرا ما قد تحقق، ولكن قد لا نجد استقرار ومسارات حضارية تحقق الانجازات التى تنقل بالشعوب من اوضاع المعاناة إلى الرفاهية والوضع الافضل من حياة كريمة تحيا فى ظلها.

إن أزمات المنطقة فى غاية الصعوبة والتعقيد، ولذلك فيها تستمر وتتواصل لفترات متلاحقة،

ولا يتم حلها بالسهولة المتوفعة، مهام تم الاستعانة بالخبراء والمختصين من الداخل والخارج، وما كنا نظنه بانه سوف ينتهى وتحدث الحالة التى تنشدها شعوب المنطقة، فإننا نجد بان هناك المزيد من تلك الصعوبات والتعقيدات قد توالدت واصبح هناك مسارات اكثر تعقيدا واشد صعوبة. إذا ما هى الاسباب لذلك، ولماذا تظهر الازمات بالمنطقة، ولماذا معالجاتها تكلف الكثير من الخسائر البشرية والمادية والمعنوية، ويحدث الانفلات الامنى ومزيدا من الفوضى، وما يؤدى إلى تصاعد للعنف وما لا تحمد عقباه. إن المنطقة مشكلاتها فى العمق، والتى تحتاج إلى معالجات جذرية، حيث ان ما يحدث لها من اعطائها المسكنات، لا تؤدى إلى تلك الاوضاع المنشودة من الاستقرار، ولذلك تتكرر تلك الاسباب التى تؤدى إلى حدوث تلك الانتكاسات فى مساراها الصحيح والسليم. المنطقة فى حاجة إلى تلك الدعائم القوية والراسخة التى تحدث لها ما يجعلها تنتقل من مراحل التوتر والتدهور، إلى مراحل الاستقرار والازدهار، وهذا ليس بمستحيل إلى ما تم توافر المواصفات لذلك، وهى متوافرة، ولكنها تحتاح إلى العمل الجاد والاخلاص والامانة وكل تلك العوامل التى تساعد على النهوض بالامة من كبوتها التى انزلقت إليها، والغفلة التى وقعت فيها.

المنافسة الشديدة بين الشركات العملاقة فى مجالات التقنيات الحديثة تجعلها تطور من خدماتها، والتى تستخدم فيها افضل الاساليب والوسائل الممكنة والمتاحة، من اجل تقديم افضل ما يمكن من خدماتها إلى مستخدميها. وعلى مستخدمى هذه الخدمات بان يكونوا دائما على الاستعداد لما يحدث من متغيرات وتوافر للبدائل المتاحة والمتطورة، والتى تؤدى إلى افضل ما يمكن من الحصول على هذه المنتجات وخدماتها من هذه الشركات العملاقة فى مختلف المجالات، وخاصة مجال المعلومات والتقنيات الحديثة.

الاوضاع الراهنة فى المنطقة فى حاجة إلى متابعة من جانب المختصين ايا ما كانت تلك الاحوال سواءا اكانت مستقرة فيكون هناك الدعم الضرورى لذلك والحفاظ على ما وصلت إليه المنطقة من استقرار وهدوء كلى او نسبى، وان يتم السير قدما نحو ما هو افضل فى تحقيق المستويات الارقى، والتى تنشدها شعوب المنطقة، وإما إذا ما كانت المنطقة فى حالة من التوترات الخفيفة او الشديدة، فإنه لابد من العمل على تحقيق ما يؤدى إلى تصحيح المسار نحو الاستقرار، وهناك ثقة بان المنطقة بها من المسئولين ذوى العلم والخبرة والحكمة والقدرة على القيام بدورهم على اكمل وجه، والوصول إلى تحقيق الاهداف المنشودة، بحيث يمكن بان يصبح هناك تحقيق اهداف المنطقة وما تنشده الشعوب من اوضاع افضل فى حياة كريمة واستقرار.

دول على قمة الاقتصاد العالمى، والتى تغزو منتجاتها العالم، واستطاعت بان تصبح فى مستوى تنافسى خطير، لا شك بان التعاون بينهما افضل من ان تستمر الحرب البادرة بينهما فى مجال الاقتصاد والتجارة.

الهند وباكستان ... الصراع بين الدولتين الجارتين النوويتين لم يتوقف، ولكنه يهدأ بعض الوقت ثم يحدث التوتر الخطير مرة اخرى، مما ينذر بكارثة نووية فى شبه الجزيرة الهندية والتى سيمتد اثرها المدمر والخطير إلى باقى انحاء القارة الاسيوية. إذا لابد من ان يحدث سلام بين الدولتين الجارتين ويصبح هناك التعاون بدلا من ان نجد بان هناك ذلك الخطر المتربص والمتوقع إذا ما حدثت تلك الازمة الخطيرة التى من الممكن بان تؤدى إلى نشوب الحرب النووية ذات نتائج واثار فى غاية الخطورة.

إن الطاقة هى عصب الحياة فلا يوجد من لا يستطيع الاستغناء عن الطاقة فى العالم، ولذلك فالكل يبحث عن البدائل المتنوعة التى يمكن له بان تؤدى له اعماله ومهامه المختلفة، وان المنطقة لها الكثير منها، ولذلك فهى موقع جيد وممتاز للاستثمارات الاجنبية وغيرها فى هذا المجال الحيوى فى عالمنا المعاصر.

معاناة الشعوب من المشكلات المستعصية على الحل والمعالجات إذا ما اصبح هناك فوضى وعدم إتخاذ الاجراءات الصحيحة والاجراءات المصاحبة لها، والتى قد يصبح هناك وضعا فيه انتقال من حال إلى حال، ولكنه ليس الحل الاكيد والعلاج الناجع، وإنما قد يكون مثل من خرج من حفرة ووقع فى حفرة أخرى، اى بانه قد يكون هناك التخلص من مشكلة للعودة إلى مشكلة اخرى قد تكون اكثر صعوبة واشد تعقيدا، وليست بالوضع المستقر الصحيح الذى فيه اختيار المسار نحو افضل ما يمكن تحقيقه من النتائج المرجوة والمنشودة لشعوب المنطقة. إنه ايضا لابد من الدعم المستمر والمتواصل الذى يؤدى إلى تحقيق افضل تلك المعالجات وما يمكن بان يكون هناك من الاستمرارية والمواصلة فى السير فى المسار الذى يحقق الاهداف المرجوة، بافضل النتائج التنافسية فى فترة ما، ومرحلة ما، وهى المرحلة الانتقالية والحرجة من تاريخ المنطقة فى ان تصل إلى ما يحمد عقباه، وان الكل ليرجوا ذلك، وان ينتهى التوتر ويعود الاستقرار إلى افضل حالاته واوضاعه.

توترات مستمرة تعصف فى كل مكان على مختلف المستويات والمناطق، وما اصبح هناك صراعات داخلية قد يكون فيها من التدخلات الاجنبية إذا ما لزم الامر وتعارضت السياسية واصبح هناك خطر على المصالح الاجنبية والداخلية، وما قد يحدث كارثة، وينذر بالخطر الوبيل. إن التدهورات السياسية تؤدى إلى حدوث الفوضى والانفلات الامنى وتصاعد العنف، والذى لا يأمن جانبه ايا من كان، من مواطنين واجانب، وما يستوجب الامر ان يكون هناك ما يؤدى إلى الانقاذ، حتى لا يمتد الصراع إلى نطاق اوسع واشمل، ويزلزل ارجاء المنطقة بأكملها ولا يصبح مقصورا على هذه الدولة بذاتها، وانما هى العلاقات التى قد تكون متشابكة ومترابطة فى المصالح والعلاقات ومقومات كثيرة قد يصعب الانفصال منها، فيزداد الوضع صعوبة وتعقيدا، ويؤدى إلى ما لا يحمد عقباه، من نتائج مرفوضة ومسارات مغلقة ومسدودة وانفاق مظلمة.

المنطقة تسير فى طريق ملئ بالكفاح المستمر الذى لا ينتهى، والذى فيه من المصاعب الكثير، وهذا لا ينكره احد، وهذه هى الحياة التى لابد من ان يعمل كلا منا، من اجل ان يعيش وان يحقق ما يريده ويحلم به ويطمح إليه، وان من جد وجد ومن زرع حصد ولكل مجتهد نصيب. يجب بان نؤدى الاعمال والمهام المطلوبه، وما يمكن بان يكون عليها الطلب من اجل مزيدا من العطاء ومزيدا مما نريد بان نحققه من انجازات سوف تكون لنا دعما وسندا وفخرا بما قد تعلمنا واستفدناه وخوض فيه، واستطعنا بعد ذلك بان نحقق افضل ما يمكن من النتائج الايجابية التى سوف تستمر وتتواصل وهذا مما يعتبر من النجاح وتحقيق الاهداف.

قضايا المنطقة صعبة ومعقدة، واصبحت فى تلك الحالة التى تصل إلى حد اليأس من وجود المعالجة الايجابية والصحيحة، وانما ما يحدث هو محاولات من اجل ايجاد البدائل التى من شأنها بان تخفف وطأة الوضع، وان يصبح هناك المسار البديل، وليس مسار الحل المنشود. إن المنطقة كما يقولون تخرج من حفرة لتقع فى دحدارة، وانها تظل فى مكافحة التوترات الشديدة، وانها معالجات بمسكنات مؤقتة، لم تحقق الاستقرار النهائى، وتظل على حافة الهاوية بين لحظة واخرى. إذا العمل الجاد الدؤوب الاخلاص الامانة إلى اخر هذه القائمة من المواصفات الايجابية والتى لا بديل عنها فى الالتزام بها، والسير قدما من اجل الخروج مما ألم بالمنطقة من جروح وألالام واحزان، لم يداويها الزمن، بل تحتاج إلى التعاون الايجابى من الجميع فى السير قدما نحو تحقيق ما تنشده شعوب المنطقة فى العيش الكريم والمستقبل الافضل، وان لا نظل فى هذه الدوامة التى لا تنتهى.

تحديات المنطقة ليست بالسهلة، فبها من الصعوبات والتعقيدات ما تعجز عنه الدول الكبرى عن ايجاد الحلول الضرورية لها، وما يمكن بان يؤدى إلى المسار الصحيح السليم فى تحقيق افضل المستويات المنشودة للمنطقة، وتحقيق ما تنشده شعوبها من أهداف. إن هناك صراعات داخلية لا احد يرضى بان يكون هناك اية تدخلات اجنبية لمعالجاتها، وان يتم ايجاد الحلول لها وما يمكن بان يؤدى إلى افضل المسارات لها من خلال الحوارات التى تتم فى نظام سياسي يرتضيه الشعب، وان لا يصبح هناك من العنف الذى يؤدى إلى التدمير والاذى والخطر الذى يلحق بالبلاد والعباد. إن المنطقة لا تكون قد اعتادت على ذلك، فى معالجات قضاياها، ولكن الاستمرار فى نفس النمط الذى يؤدى إلى العنف لا يحقق الاهداف التى يرتجى لها من شعوب المنطقة. وسيظل الوضع فى دوامة لا تنتهى، وهذا ما اصبحنا نراه اليوم فى ظل هذه السياسات التى تتخبط، ويحدث التدهور والتوتر ولا يرتقى بالشعوب إلى المستويات التى تحقق لهم افضل ما يمكن بان يجدوه من متطلباتهم واحتياجاهم الضرورية. قد يكون هناك الشعور بان تغيرا ما قد تحقق، ولكن قد لا نجد استقرار ومسارات حضارية تحقق الانجازات التى تنقل بالشعوب من اوضاع المعاناة إلى الرفاهية والوضع الافضل من حياة كريمة تحيا فى ظلها.

إن أزمات المنطقة فى غاية الصعوبة والتعقيد، ولذلك فيها تستمر وتتواصل لفترات متلاحقة،

ولا يتم حلها بالسهولة المتوفعة، مهام تم الاستعانة بالخبراء والمختصين من الداخل والخارج، وما كنا نظنه بانه سوف ينتهى وتحدث الحالة التى تنشدها شعوب المنطقة، فإننا نجد بان هناك المزيد من تلك الصعوبات والتعقيدات قد توالدت واصبح هناك مسارات اكثر تعقيدا واشد صعوبة. إذا ما هى الاسباب لذلك، ولماذا تظهر الازمات بالمنطقة، ولماذا معالجاتها تكلف الكثير من الخسائر البشرية والمادية والمعنوية، ويحدث الانفلات الامنى ومزيدا من الفوضى، وما يؤدى إلى تصاعد للعنف وما لا تحمد عقباه. إن المنطقة مشكلاتها فى العمق، والتى تحتاج إلى معالجات جذرية، حيث ان ما يحدث لها من اعطائها المسكنات، لا تؤدى إلى تلك الاوضاع المنشودة من الاستقرار، ولذلك تتكرر تلك الاسباب التى تؤدى إلى حدوث تلك الانتكاسات فى مساراها الصحيح والسليم. المنطقة فى حاجة إلى تلك الدعائم القوية والراسخة التى تحدث لها ما يجعلها تنتقل من مراحل التوتر والتدهور، إلى مراحل الاستقرار والازدهار، وهذا ليس بمستحيل إلى ما تم توافر المواصفات لذلك، وهى متوافرة، ولكنها تحتاح إلى العمل الجاد والاخلاص والامانة وكل تلك العوامل التى تساعد على النهوض بالامة من كبوتها التى انزلقت إليها، والغفلة التى وقعت فيها.

المنافسة الشديدة بين الشركات العملاقة فى مجالات التقنيات الحديثة تجعلها تطور من خدماتها، والتى تستخدم فيها افضل الاساليب والوسائل الممكنة والمتاحة، من اجل تقديم افضل ما يمكن من خدماتها إلى مستخدميها. وعلى مستخدمى هذه الخدمات بان يكونوا دائما على الاستعداد لما يحدث من متغيرات وتوافر للبدائل المتاحة والمتطورة، والتى تؤدى إلى افضل ما يمكن من الحصول على هذه المنتجات وخدماتها من هذه الشركات العملاقة فى مختلف المجالات، وخاصة مجال المعلومات والتقنيات الحديثة.

الاوضاع الراهنة فى المنطقة فى حاجة إلى متابعة من جانب المختصين ايا ما كانت تلك الاحوال سواءا اكانت مستقرة فيكون هناك الدعم الضرورى لذلك والحفاظ على ما وصلت إليه المنطقة من استقرار وهدوء كلى او نسبى، وان يتم السير قدما نحو ما هو افضل فى تحقيق المستويات الارقى، والتى تنشدها شعوب المنطقة، وإما إذا ما كانت المنطقة فى حالة من التوترات الخفيفة او الشديدة، فإنه لابد من العمل على تحقيق ما يؤدى إلى تصحيح المسار نحو الاستقرار، وهناك ثقة بان المنطقة بها من المسئولين ذوى العلم والخبرة والحكمة والقدرة على القيام بدورهم على اكمل وجه، والوصول إلى تحقيق الاهداف المنشودة، بحيث يمكن بان يصبح هناك تحقيق اهداف المنطقة وما تنشده الشعوب من اوضاع افضل فى حياة كريمة واستقرار.

دول على قمة الاقتصاد العالمى، والتى تغزو منتجاتها العالم، واستطاعت بان تصبح فى مستوى تنافسى خطير، لا شك بان التعاون بينهما افضل من ان تستمر الحرب البادرة بينهما فى مجال الاقتصاد والتجارة.

الهند وباكستان ... الصراع بين الدولتين الجارتين النوويتين لم يتوقف، ولكنه يهدأ بعض الوقت ثم يحدث التوتر الخطير مرة اخرى، مما ينذر بكارثة نووية فى شبه الجزيرة الهندية والتى سيمتد اثرها المدمر والخطير إلى باقى انحاء القارة الاسيوية. إذا لابد من ان يحدث سلام بين الدولتين الجارتين ويصبح هناك التعاون بدلا من ان نجد بان هناك ذلك الخطر المتربص والمتوقع إذا ما حدثت تلك الازمة الخطيرة التى من الممكن بان تؤدى إلى نشوب الحرب النووية ذات نتائج واثار فى غاية الخطورة.

إن الطاقة هى عصب الحياة فلا يوجد من لا يستطيع الاستغناء عن الطاقة فى العالم، ولذلك فالكل يبحث عن البدائل المتنوعة التى يمكن له بان تؤدى له اعماله ومهامه المختلفة، وان المنطقة لها الكثير منها، ولذلك فهى موقع جيد وممتاز للاستثمارات الاجنبية وغيرها فى هذا المجال الحيوى فى عالمنا المعاصر.

معاناة الشعوب من المشكلات المستعصية على الحل والمعالجات إذا ما اصبح هناك فوضى وعدم إتخاذ الاجراءات الصحيحة والاجراءات المصاحبة لها، والتى قد يصبح هناك وضعا فيه انتقال من حال إلى حال، ولكنه ليس الحل الاكيد والعلاج الناجع، وإنما قد يكون مثل من خرج من حفرة ووقع فى حفرة أخرى، اى بانه قد يكون هناك التخلص من مشكلة للعودة إلى مشكلة اخرى قد تكون اكثر صعوبة واشد تعقيدا، وليست بالوضع المستقر الصحيح الذى فيه اختيار المسار نحو افضل ما يمكن تحقيقه من النتائج المرجوة والمنشودة لشعوب المنطقة. إنه ايضا لابد من الدعم المستمر والمتواصل الذى يؤدى إلى تحقيق افضل تلك المعالجات وما يمكن بان يكون هناك من الاستمرارية والمواصلة فى السير فى المسار الذى يحقق الاهداف المرجوة، بافضل النتائج التنافسية فى فترة ما، ومرحلة ما، وهى المرحلة الانتقالية والحرجة من تاريخ المنطقة فى ان تصل إلى ما يحمد عقباه، وان الكل ليرجوا ذلك، وان ينتهى التوتر ويعود الاستقرار إلى افضل حالاته واوضاعه.

توترات مستمرة تعصف فى كل مكان على مختلف المستويات والمناطق، وما اصبح هناك صراعات داخلية قد يكون فيها من التدخلات الاجنبية إذا ما لزم الامر وتعارضت السياسية واصبح هناك خطر على المصالح الاجنبية والداخلية، وما قد يحدث كارثة، وينذر بالخطر الوبيل. إن التدهورات السياسية تؤدى إلى حدوث الفوضى والانفلات الامنى وتصاعد العنف، والذى لا يأمن جانبه ايا من كان، من مواطنين واجانب، وما يستوجب الامر ان يكون هناك ما يؤدى إلى الانقاذ، حتى لا يمتد الصراع إلى نطاق اوسع واشمل، ويزلزل ارجاء المنطقة بأكملها ولا يصبح مقصورا على هذه الدولة بذاتها، وانما هى العلاقات التى قد تكون متشابكة ومترابطة فى المصالح والعلاقات ومقومات كثيرة قد يصعب الانفصال منها، فيزداد الوضع صعوبة وتعقيدا، ويؤدى إلى ما لا يحمد عقباه، من نتائج مرفوضة ومسارات مغلقة ومسدودة وانفاق مظلمة.

أمس واليوم ... النظريات والحقائق

إننا اليوم نمر بعصر كثرت فيه الأختلافات بين البشر، واصبح الكل يحاول الوصول إلى القمة فى الحياة الحديثة التى نحياها اليوم، والبحث عن كل جديد وطمس كل ماهو قديم، فلقد ترك الأنسان فى أغلب المجتمعات الحديثة العادات والتقاليد التى كانت فى الماضى يسير عليها الأباء والأجداد، وعللوا ذلك بأنها بالية وعتيقة وصلبة عقيمة، لاتصلح لمجتمعات اليوم، ويجب أن نكون فى حرية تامة، نفعل ما نريد ونحقق كل ما يخطر لنا على بال. وان أراء وأفكار الأجيال التى سبقتنا لاتصلح لنا لنعيش فى عصرنا الحالى فى يومنا هذا، الذى يحتاج إلى أفكار جديدة، ومعتقدات مختلفة، وأن تهدم الحواجز والفواصل التى تعيق تحررنا وحركتنا نحو الأنطلاق إلى كل ماهو حديث وجديد، وأن يكون لنا أستقلالنا الفكرى من نبذ لكل ما هو قديم وإقتناء لكل ماهو جديد، وحتى إن كان فيها هلاكنا ودمارنا، فإننا بالطبع قد فقدنا التميز بين الأشياء، وماهو جيد لنا، ويجب الأخذ به، وماهو ضار لنا ويجب الأبتعاد عنه وتجنبه، ولكننا للأسف الشديد لانستطيع السيطر' على أنفسنا وأنغمسا فى الحضارة الغربية بكل عيوبه ومساوئها، وفقدنا الزمام، للحفاظ على طابعنا وقيمنا وطابعنا الشرقى الأصيل، ولانعلم إلى أية هاوية نحو إليها سائرون، وهل من وقوف من تقييم للأوضاع الحالية، والعودة إلى مناهجنا التى تركناها، أم إنه لامجال إلا السير مع التيار القوى الذى لانستطع مقامته.

أمس واليوم

ماهذا الذى يحدث فى مجتمعاتنا التى نعيش فيها من إختلاف فى العادات والطباع والتقاليد، بالنسبة للبشر سواءا كانوا مواطنين فى تلك المجتمعات أو أجانب يقيمون لفترات معروفة لأية غرض من الأغلراض، سواءا كانت للعمل أو الزيارة أو حتى قد تكون بغرض الهجرة، والأقامة الدائمة فى تلك المجتمعات، وهو أن تكون أشياء كثيرة تغيرت فى كل مكان تقريبا، فقد تداخلت العادات والتقاليد لكثير من المجتمعات من مجتمعات أخرى، وعليه فأننا بما لدينا اليوم من مقتنيات حديثة أصبحت تؤودى مهام كانت تحتاج فى الماضى إلى أوقات طويلة وجهد كبير وشاق يبذل فى هذا المضمار، ولكن اليوم أصبح الأنسان فى وضع يحسد عليه بما لديه من مثل تلك الأجهزة التى أصبحت له مثل الخادم المطيع، أو فعل السحر فى الماضى، وكانت تعتبر من سابع المستحيلات وفى الخيال والاحلام، حيث أصبح الآن بلمسة أو لمسات بسيطة، تنفذ تلك الألآت والأجهزة أغراض عديدة ومتنوعة وتنفذ له أعمال كانت فى الماضى تحتاج إلى أفراد عديدين ذوى مهارات متميزة وان ينفق الأموال وتبذل المجهودات، وهذا بالطبع أدى إلى تغييرات فى الطبائع البشرية، بعد أن كانت صلبة وصعبة التغير وتحتاج إلى الوقت للمعرفة والتنقل من مكان إلى مكان آخر بعيد، فإننا أصبحنا اليوم نستطيع التعرف على ما يجرى من أحوال الأمم الأخرى سواءا كان ذلك فى الماضى أو الحاضر، ومن مايدور حولنا فى هذا العالم الذى نعيشه، ونطلع فى الحال على كل جديد يظهر فى هذا العالم، سواءا فى المجالات العلمية أو الأدبية أو الفكرية، وكلك من موضات فى الأزياء والموسيقى والفن وخلافه، وهذا يجعلنا نشارك الآخرين المشاعر والأحاسيس، سويا وفى وقت واحد فى أية بقعة من الكرة الأرضية، بما توافر له من تقنيات حديثة، تؤدى

هذا الغرض، وما كان متوفرا للحكومات والدول أصبح متوافرا للأفراد فى كل مكان، حيث أصبحت الشركات التجارية تسعى جاهدة فى انزال كل المقتنيات والسلع والخدمات ذات التكنولوجيات الحديثة والمتطورة، إلى الأسواق، بغرض تحقيق الربح المادى السريع بأية وسيلة من الوسائل كانت، وأهملت باقى المعايير التى يجب أن تحافظ على سرية أو أهمية المعلومات، والتقنيات، وأصبحت فى متناول البش جميعا، معروضة فى الأسواق أو بالطلب من الشركات التى تستطيع توفيرها لمن يدفع الثمن، وكل مايطلب منها يمكن انتاجه وتحقيقه، فلم يعد اليوم هناك تقريبا شيئا مستحيلا، فى هذا العالم الغريب والعجيب.

النظريات والحقائق

لاأحد ينكر أن النجاح يحتاج إلى مجهود وعمل جاد وبناء وهو ناتج عن دراسات علمية وتجارب معملية قام بها الأفراد والجماعات وكلا يحصل فى النهاية نتيجة مجهوده الى قد تعم على النطاق العالمى والأستخدام الفعال والأنتشار الواسع، وبالطبع فإن الكثير من الأبحاث والأكتشافات التى تحصل عليها العلماء كانت دائما نتيجة دراسة جادة وشاقة وإن كان هناك بعض الأكتشافات ظهرت بفعل الصدفة، وهناك كما هو معروف النظريات التى يضعها العلماء لأشياء غامضة وغير واضحة، وقد تكون خارج الأدراك البشرى، وحتى يكون هناك مفهوم لما يحيط بالأنسان فهو يضع الرؤيا الموضوعية والمنطق والتى تتفق مع العقل الأنسانى والواقع العام، ويطلق عليها النظرية او الحقيقة نتيجة التطور العلمى أو الفكرى، فإما يأخذ بهذه النظرية ويثبت صحتها، أو أنها تبطلها ويأتى بالحقائق الكونية التى لا تدع مجال للشك فى الرأى المؤيد لمثل تلك الأمور التى يدركها الأنسان ويبحث فى ماهيتها، من هذا نستنبط بأن النسان إذا وجد سئ غامض حوله فإنه يضع النظرية التى تؤيد تفكيره المنطقى والعقلانى لمثل هذا الأمر إلى أن يثبت صحته أو بطلانه.

الواقع والمستقبل

الكل يعلم تمام العلم بأنه يجب أن نعمل ونكافح فى هذه الحياة حتى نعيش والكل يطمح بأن يحسن مستواه المعيشى ومن زيادة فى الدخل، وذلك لمواجهة متطلبات الحياة التى هى فى إزدياد مستمر فى تكاليف الحياة الدائم، وبالطبع فإن الأفراد عادة يريدون تحقيق المزيد من الرفاهية، بعد إشباع الأحتياجات الأساسية اللازمة لأستمرارية الحياة، وعلى سبيل المثال فإن الأنسان يريد أن يحقق أمتلاكه لبعض المقتنيات الأساسية مثل البيت والسيارة والمأكل والمشرب والوظيفة المناسبة وتقضية أوقات الفراغ على الصورة المرضية من رحلات وتغيير وتجديد الممتلكات كلما أمكن ذلك فى فترات متقاربة ، بأستمرارية، وهكذا قائمة من المتطلبات التى لاتنتهى، ولهذا فإن الأنسان يبحث دائما عن الوسائل التى تحقق له المزيد من الدخل لتحقيق مثل تلك الرغبات والمتطلبات الأساسية والكمالية وخلافه لمسايرة الحياة، فهناك من يتشثت بها ولا يريد أن يفارقها لما يمتلكه من مقتنيات مادية من حطام هذه الدنيا

الفانية فى هذه الحياة التي نحياها.

وعليه فإن فى الموازى لذلك هو الجماعات التى تعمل فى وحدات متعددة ومتنوعة لتحقيق أهداف أخرى فهذه الجماعات قد تكون حكومات، أو مؤسسات، أو شركات، أو منظمات ولجان، أو جمعيات، وبالطبع وذلك لتحقيق رغبات أكثر وليس على المستوى الفردى ولكن على المستوى الجماعى المتمثل فى الأسواق والمنشأت التعليمية الحكومية أو الخاصة، وخلافه حتى يتم أتمام مشاريع أو تحقيق أغراض ونشر دعايات وأعلانات قد تكون من أجل إجتذاب الأموال، ونشر الوعى الصحى والوقائى، والأندماج الأجتماعى، والسياسى، أو قد يكون لتحقيق مستوى أفضل من الرفاهية عن طريق الوسائل المتاحة من الأنجازات الحضارية التى نعيشها اليوم فى مجالات الأتصالات والموصلات والأعلام والتجارة فى مختلف السلع والأجهزة الأنتاجية والمعمرة، والأستهلاكية.

وعليه فإن المسارات فى هذه الحياة التى نحياها، ونحن على مشارق قرن جديد يطالعنا بإشراقة وإطلالة جديدة، وفى إنتظار تغيرات هائلة وثورات علمية هائلة فى مجالات متعددة، قد تغير مفاهيم العصر الذى نعيشه، فإن التنبؤ صعب بما قد يأتى به المستقبل، وبما سوف تكون عليه الحياة، فى القرن الجديد، وهل نستطيع التأقلم معها أم لا؟، فإن الجواب سوف يظهر فى الأيام المقبلة.

وعلى هذا فإننا يجب أن نحافظ على ما لدينا من إنجازات حضارية وأن نحاول الوصول إلى الأفضل دائما، وبذل المستطاع من الجهد فى إكمال الوجبات المطلوبة منا تجاة أنفنسنا وتجاة الآخرين، وأن يكون هناك جدية فى العمل، وتقدير للجهد المبذول، ومحبه وإحترام متبادل بيننا وبين بعضينا البعض، حتى يكون هناك سلام بين المجتمعات وراحة نفسية بين الأفراد، لا أمراض إجتماعية عصرية من الأنعزال والتقوقع فى أنفسنا، فلا يعلم أحد شئ عن الآخرين سواءا كانوا يشاركونه نفس العمارة التى يقطنها أو الحى الذى يعيش به، كانت هناك صداقات إنقلبت إلى عدائيات، من روح العصر اذى إنغمسنا فيه.

فإن الواقع الحضارى الذى يعيشه الغرب يجب أن لايأخذ كما هو، بكل عيوبه ومساؤه، وماله وما عليه، ولكن يجب أن ينتقى الجيد من العمل والصالح منه للمجتمعات الشرقية، حتى لانندم فى المستقبل لما وصلنا إليه، مع عدم الملاءمة للطباع والعادات والتقاليد التى نشئنا عليها، فالحياة الفلسفية والنفسية والأجتماعية مهمة جدا مثل الحياة الدنيوي. فإن إستطعنا ذلك فإننا نكون قد نجحنا فى المواكبة مع الحضارة الغربية والخوض فى النهضة الحضارية بروح العصر الحالى والماضى، كليهما معا، فلا متسقبل بدون حضارة الماضى، والحفاظ

عليها والاستفادة منها قدر الإمكان، وإن كان هذا صعب، فإن البناء دائما يحتاج إلى بذل الجهود الازمة لذلك، وإن النجاح ضريبته التعب والجهد المبذول للوصول إلى الهدف.

المنطقة بين قوى جذب الغرب والشرق

هذا هو حالنا، سنين تمر، وشهور وأسابيع تكر، وأيام تفر، وأعوام تنهتى واعوام تبدأ من جديد، فهل من جديد غير المآسى التى تظهر وتمر على المنطقة من الحروب والصراعات والنزاعات المستمرة والمتواصلة، والتى لا تهدأ، واذا أنتهت ازمة، بدأت ازمة جديدة، فلا تهدأ المنطقة وشعوبها، وانما تستمر فى قلقها الذى ينغص عليها معيشتها، ولا تعرف كيف يمكن بان تستقر من اجل تحقيق الانجازات الحضارية التى تنهض بها بالبلاد والعباد. كلنا يعلم باننا نعيش على الارض التى ليس فيها الراحة، وانما هو العمل الذى يجب علينا القيام به، وان نخوض فى غمار هذه المعارك المستمرة مع الحياة التى تتشعب بنا فى كافة المجالات والميادين.

المنطقة وحساباتها الصعبة والمعقدة فى تعاملها مع الاحداث التى تطرأ وتظهر، وما يحدث فيها من كل تلك الصراعات الخطيرة التى لا تبشر بالخير، وانما تنذر بالخطر والويل الذى ينتظر المنطقة فى مسقبلها إذا لم يتم اصلاح الحال إلى ما هو افضل، وما ينبغى لها بان تلتزم به فى مسارارتها نحو تحقيق الانجازات التى تحقق الرخاء والازدهار والرفاهية لشعوبها. إنه قد يكون هناك قناعة بما تسير فيه شعوب المنطقة، ولكنها تصطدم حين ترى الفجوة الهائلة بينها وبين حضارة العالم الحديثة من انجازات فى كافة المجالات والميادين هى أقرب للخيال، فيحدث الشعوب بانها تعيش فى وادى والعالم المتحضر فى وادى اخر، وتجد بانها محرومة من ان تحيا الحياة المناسبة والملائمة لحضارة العصر بما فيه من تقدم وانها تعيش فى وضعها المتأخر المتخلف. إن شعوب المنطقة ليست حيوانات تأكل وتشرب وتنام، وليس لها اية احلام وطموحات تريد بان تحققها، وان تصل إلى ما وصل إليه العالم الحديث من تحقيق هذه الانتصارات فى كافة التحديات التى تواجهه، وما يمكن بان تشارك وتساهم وتعطى وتحقق الانتصارات الهائلة فى مجالاتها التى تخوص غمارها. إن المنطقة من الممكن بان تبقى على حالها، إذا عاشت منغلقة على نفسها، ولكن طالما انه قد حدث الانفتاح على العالم، وحضرت الشركات العملاقة لتندمج مع مجتمعات المنطقة، وان تجد لها اسواق وشعوب تندمج معها، فلابد من ان يكون هناك التغير الذى يؤدى إلى هذه المواكبة، فلا يمكن بان نظل فى كسل وخمول وهناك من يعمل بهمة ونشاط ويؤدى من الاعمال والمهام الكثير لنهضة المجتمعات بالمنطقة. أن المنطقة من تحرز من الانتصارات فى ايا من المجالات والميادين على المستوى العالمى ايا من تلك التى تفخر بها مثل باقى شعوب العالم الذى يحصد الجوائز الدولية والكؤوس الذهبية والميداليات على مختلف تدراجتها المتنوعة فى ايا من المونديالات او المسابقات التنافسية، رياضية كانت او ثقافية او علمية او فى ايا من باقى ميادين الحضارة الحديثة

التى تذخر بالكثير مما يمكن المشاركة فيه والمنافسة على الفوز.

إن هناك المتفائلين بما يمكن بان يكون عليه من اوضاع افضل فى المستقبل القريب والبعيد للمنطقة، وقد يكون معهم الكثيرين، ولكن لابد من ان يكون هناك من تلك النتائج الايجابية التى تبشر بهذا الوضع الذى فيه من الخير للمنطقة، وأننا معهم وندعمهم وندعم انفسنا بهذا الحلم فى مستقبل افضل سوف يكون يعم المنطقة، وهناك من المتشائمين الذين يروا بان المنطقة ستظل فى دوامة من الصراعات والنزاعات لا تنتهى إلا بمعجزة ونحن لسنا فى عصر المعجزات التى يمكن بان تعالج المشكلات والازمات المستعصية المتواجدة بالمنطقة، والتى ليست وليدة الامس القريب، وانما لها جذورها الممتدة فى التاريخ من تفاقم لازمات اصبحت فوق الطاقة والامكانية والقدرة على معالجاتها، وهناك لا يجب مطلقا بان يتسرب اليأس إلى القلوب فيصبح هناك مزيدا من تفاقم الازمات وصعوبتها وتعقيدها، ولا يمكن بان يتم التقدم خطوة واحدة إلى الامام من اجل الخروج من هذه الدوامة وهذه المتاهة التى وقعت فيها المنطقة، لا تجد من يمد لها يد العون من اجل الخلاص من هذه المعاناة المستمرة والمتواصلة التى لاتهدأ ولا تجد لها انفراجا مما قد اصبحت فيه.

إنه المسار نحو تحقيق الافضل يحتاج إلى الدعم الدائم والمستمر، وهناك الكثير مما لابد من دعمه بالاسلوب الصحيح فى تحقيق افضل الانجازات وما تحتاج إليه من متابعة واهتمام والسير قدما فى طريق النهضة الحضارية.

لا احد ينكر بان المنطقة وصلت إلى مرحلة من التردى السياسي والامنى الخطير، بحيث ان هناك محاولات ليست بالاختيارية ولكنها اجبارية من اجل أعادة الترتيب للبيت العربى، ولكن هناك شد وجذب وتوترات وتدهورات، ومن يقبل هذا الوضع ومن لا يقبله، ومن يريد بان يكون المسار نحو هذا الاتجاة، ولكن هناك من يروا العكس او خلاف ذلك. فهذا التعارض الشديد بين الاراء ووجهات النظر، وما يحدث فى اخذها والتعامل معها بالشكل العشوائى، هو الذى يؤدى إلى حدوث الفوضى العارمة، والتى لا يستطيع احد بان يقف امام هذه التيارات السياسية والفكرية الجارفة، التى تقود إلى لا مكان ولا موقع، يمكن بان نحدده، ونجد بان هناك الارض الصلبة التى يمكن الوقوف عليها، والتى يعتمد عليها فى اتخاذ المسار الصحيح نحو تحقيق افضل ما يمكن من انجازات حضارية فى كافة المجالات والميادين للمنطقة. إذا هناك اعادة بناء بالاسلوب الذى يجمع فيه الاغلبية عليه، وانما هو التعدد الذى يقود إلى

التشتت والتشعب، والذى يحتاج إلى الحكمة والحنكة والصواب والرشاد فى التعامل مع الوضع الراهن بالمنطقة، والتى تتأثر وتؤثر فى العالم والاحداث التى تدور فيه. إذا فلابد من ان يظهر العرب بالمظهر الحضارى، والذى يمكن له بان يرتقى إلى ارفع المستويات الحضارية فى عالمنا المعاصر، يفيد ويستفيد، يأخذ ويعطى، ويتفاعل مع العالم بالاسلوب الايجابى الذى فيه النفع والخير فى نهاية المطاف بافضل والوسائل والاساليب الممكنة والمتاحة. فلا نصبح على الهامش فنبتعد عن المسار الحضارى، او نصبح فى العمق الذى لا نستطيع الخروج منه، او النجاة كما يجب. خير الامور الوسط، وما يمكن بان يحقق الاستمرارية والمواصلة فى كافة الظروف والمناسبات المختلفة والمتعددة والمتنوعة.

إن المنطقة تفتقد إلى النظام السياسيى الحكيم والصحيح والسليم فى التعامل مع الازمات والمشكلات والمعضلات، فإنها هى التى تتسبب فى حدوث هذه الفوضى الشديدة والانفلات الامنى الخطير، والذى يقود إلى الانهيار والعصيان والتمرد، وكل تلك السلبيات والمساوئ التى لا تسر عدو ولا حبيب، والنتائج التى لا تحمد عقباها. إن الازمات التى فى المنطقة ليست بجديدة، ولكن فى دول العالم المتقدم تم التعامل معها بالاسلوب الحضارى الصحيح والذى عالج هذه المشكلات والازمات بالاسلوب الذى استطاع فيه بان يسيطر على الازمة، وعالجها، ووجد لها الحل المناسب، والذى من خلاله، لم تحدث تلك النتائج السلبية او ظهور لهذه المساوئ التى تظهر فى المنطقة، من تلك التصرفات التى تخرج عن الارادة، وتفقد السيطرة، وتؤدى إلى وخيم العواقب التى فيها من التدمير والهدم وليس البناء والاصلاح، والتريث فيما يجب بان يتم فى التصرفات الايجابية، وفقا للنظام الذى اهتم بالازمات الفردية والجماعية، ولم يعد هناك من يجد بانه قد ظلم، او تم التعدى على حقوقه، او انه اصبح ليس هناك من يهتم به ومشكلاته واحتياجاته ومتطلباته. إنها البنية الاساسية التى يجد فيها كل فرد وجماعة بانه يقف على ارض صلبة، وليس هناك من يسحب ما يقف عليه، ويعتمد عليه، ثم يجد بانه اصبح فى الهاوية، والمصير إلى الهلاك. إذا هناك فجوة حضارية بين المنطقة التى تعتبر من دول العالم النامى وبين الدول الحضارية المتقدمة التى استطاعت بان تكون القدوة فى ما لديها من نظام يساعد ويساند ويدعم افراده وجماعاته، فيصبح فى الامان والاطمئان المادى والمعنوى، وينظر للمستقبل نظرة تفاؤلية، وليست تشاؤميه ليس فيها من رجاء او تحقيق ايا من تلك الاولويات الضرورية ولا نقول الاولويات التكميلية،

إن عام 2012 مر وانتهى بافراحه واتراحه، وان الجميع يتطلع ويتمنى بان يكون عام 2013 افضل وفى من الخير والمعالجات لأزمات المنطقة والعالم.

قد يكون هناك سلبيات ومساوئ بالمنطقة، وهذا شئ وارد، ويجب بان يوضع فى الحسبان، وان كل مجتمعات العالم فيها من هذه المساوئ والعيوب التى يتم التعامل معها من خلال المعالجات الايجابية والصحيحة، والخروج من تلك الازمات التى تمر بها، ويصبح هناك الوضع الافضل فى مسار يحتذى به ويصبح قدوة يعتد بها. إن المنطقة لها تاريخها المجيد، ومرت على الكثير من الازمات الخطيرة خلال القرون الماضية، ولم تندمج مع العالم الحديث بالوضع الصحيح بان يكون لها ثقلها السياسى والاجتماعى والحضارى، ولكن هناك من يحارب هذا الاندماج والانفتاح على العالم المعاصر، من الغرب والشرق، فى العلن والخفاء. كل هذه الاستفزازات هى من اجل ان تظل المنطقة فى انعزالها عن العالم لا تستطيع بان تساهم وتشارك وتخوض المنافسات فى كافة المجالات والميادين، وان يصبح لها دورها القيادى فى المجتمع الدولى.

المنافسات الهائلة بين شركات العالم العملاقة يسير فى طريقه الحضارى، يحقق الانجازات الهائلة وتوفير كافة وسائل الراحة والبساطة والسهولة فى التعامل مع منتجاتها وسلعها وخدماتها، بحيث تستطيع بان تحقق المزيد من النجاح والوصول إلى القمة، وان تظل متربعة على عرشها. إن هذه المنافسات ليست بالسهلة فى عالم كثرت فيه هذه الانجازات الحضارية التنافسية بكم وسرعة هائل.

في درب الحياة .. بجهد وكفاح

فين الايام الحلوة اللى مرت
وفين الايام السهلة اللى فرت
وفين الليالى السمر اللى ما ظلت
وفين ذكريات المحبة والحنان اللى طلت
فين الجد وسهر الليالى، والايام الصعبة اللى عدت
واصبحنا لكل ما مضى نحن ونتحسر
لاننا فى وضع حائر متردد

ماذا اعطينا وماذا اخذنا
من واقع اليم سادنا
ومن عذاب رهيب جاءنا
ومن قرين مقيت عاد لنا
كل ما نهرب منه يجرى ورائنا
وكل ما نتخلى عنه ما نقدر نبعد :انه فى دماءنا

أسئلة فى الخلد تدور
حين تعديت على الاصول
وحين تطاولت على البروج
وحين تخطيت الحدود
وحين انتهكت القيود
ماذا تنتظر ان يكون من ردود
هل هذا فعل متعمد مقصود
ام انه فعل لا تدرى من كان يقود
هل لديك ما تقول من ردود
وهل لديك من براهين ومن شهود
ام انتهى كل شئ، واصيح غير موجود
نتمنى هذا وان تكون محمود
وللمحبة والسلام والامان ان يسود الوجود
وهذ من الممكن بالخير بان تعود وان تجود
كل شئ فى الامكان ان بذلت الجهود

الجميل الحزين
أنا والاشجار والعصافير اصبحنا نعيش
فى درب الحياة الطويل بجهد وكفاح ونطلب الرزق للمعيش اليسير
والاسماك فى جدولها مع التيار تسبح فى المسير
والشمس والقمر والنجوم رفاق لنا فى الكون تدير
حتى نعمل بجد او نستلقى على العشب لنستريح قليلا او كثيرا او نسير
وننظر للاشجار والثمار والزهور ورونق الحياة للعشير
مشاعر واحاسيس بها انتقال او ارتقاء للفضاء مريح، بهجة ومنها الكثير والوفير

عودة بلا رجعة
انتهاء من البداية
مرت السنين فى دائرةالايام والشهور
مثل سير خوفنا بان ينقطع فيها فلا يستمر او يدور
ادرنا دفة الحديث، نحو النافع والمفيد
وبذلنا جهدنا فى انجاز رائع .. حضارى عظيم

نسير فى طريق الحق واليقين
نحقق انجاز ممتاز .. وان لم يمتاز مثل ما يعين
اننا نحاول للصعاب بان نجتاز
وللعاطالة بان نجتاز
وللحق بان نمتاز
نسير مع الجماعة ... ونريد الشفاعة
وان ابتعدنا واصبحنا فى وحدة ... فإننا فى حاجة إىل عدة وعودة ومدة
هذا هو المطلوب فى وضع تغير واصبح بالمقلوب
ولم يعد هناك رحمة فى القلوب ... ونور فى العقول مطلوب

نسائم وقت بديع
لا أستطيع ... إن كان ذم او مديح
كل هذا الكم الفظيع
من لا يأخذ بالعهد الجديد، وان يطيع..
ليس هناك خلاف او شقاق .. سوف لا يضيعابتدائنا وخسرنا وربحنا .. فلا نشترى او نبيع
سارت ايامنا حلوة ... ومرة كل شئ بديع ... بطئ كان او سريع
انفردنا واختلطنا بالاهل بالقريب والصديق الوديع
فى مواضيع الجد واللهو والكلام فهو فى الرأى العام ونحن نذيع

كل شئ كل الاحداث .. تمر فى مسار جميل بديع
أنها الثوابت لا تحرم او نبيح

قمم شامخة
ملوك المشاعر والافئدة
أين الانهار تجرى فى دنيا الخلود
اين السعادة تأتى للشعب الحزين المجروح
اين الارتقاء إلى امجاد تحقق الرخاء المنشود
اين نحن من كل ما يحدث فى دنيا الصراع الممقوت
كنا مع الاحبة نعيش بين الوديان والاعشاب والمروج

اصبحنا نعيش بين اطلال فيها فلان شقى وفؤاد مجروح

دنيا فيها بسمة صعبة ومرة .. يتبعها بكاء وانين والكل كليل

دمائنا انهار تجرى فى الوادى بلون صارخ ونحيب وعليل

ألم دفين فينا يظهر كل وقت وكل حين

اللحن اصبح جميل ... من شقاء الدهر وانتصار ليس له مثيل

وفى النهاية انتم ونحن نسير فى طريق ووضع ليس فيه دليل

توهان الحقيقة
اصبحنا نسير فى اية اتجاة ..... لا ندرى
لنا معاملات وعلاقات مع من .... لا ندرى
نشكو بل ونتألم ولمن نذهب .... لا ندرى
طريق طويل ومتى نصل للنهاية .... لا ندرى
تحققت امانى وتكسرت احلام وطموحات ممن ... لاندرى

حياة ... مجالات

علاقات معاملات

هناك طريق فيه اسير ... ممهد جميل

بل مزين وحلو ... ارى فيه ازاهير ونهر سلسبيل

لا أفكر فى نهار او ليل يجئ وغدا سيأتى بعد وقت قليل

واكون فى حالى ... سعيد بفكر جديد ... واظل اسير بدون ارشاد او دليل

هكذا الحياة والوضع المثير ... والناس معاك صحيح وعليل

تنادى تجاب ... ورحمة وصفاء... وجد يهاب ولا بأس بلهو قليل

طيور تطير ... وانهار تغيض ... وامطار تسيل وكلا فى وحال جميل

نسير بدون وعى او بوعى فماذا يفيد ... مسئوليات وألتزامات ... لها تكيل

طريق البساطة والشطارة فيه تريد ومنه تستفيد والصعوبة تزيل

وأختفاء الكثير الذى فيه تعقيد .. ومنه تريد وللحضارة الحديثة عميل

مالك مش تقدر الوقت والعطاء

وكنت عايش فى حالك وبدون غطاء

واصبحت تعانى فى وحدة وفضاء

وكنت تحاول فى تحقيق العز والرخاء

اسافر بلدان ... مدن حضارات حديثة وقديمة

لها رونق جميل غريب عجيب وعبق التاريخ

هذا وصف الحال قبل بضع سنين وسيتمر إلى حين ..

دنيا اتغيرت ... وحاجات او انجازات زادت .. من حضارة سادت

وسرعة نعيشها ... رغم اننا نسير ببطء شديد

أعطى كل من يريد من الخير الوفير .... ولكن العلم والمعرفة ده شئ اكيد

ربنا يرزقنا جميعا من كرمه ومنه ... ولا تنسى الادخار والتوفير

ونحافظ على ما لدينا ... وتصرف سديد ورشيد .. وندعو كل يوم بدون تبرير

هل انتهينا ام لمن ننتهى .. مما نؤديه .. هل بقى شئ أم كل تحول إلى ما نريد او لا نريد

خبرنا الحياة ... وفيها ومنها لائمين
غير غافلين او نائمين

نريد فيها الخير ... وعن الشر بان نكون مبعدين

ولكنها الاهواء تعصف حتى بالمسالمين

والحذر واجب .. وان لا نكون غافلين

نواصل طريقا فيه .... فيه نظل فى المعاناة غير قانعين

نفوز احيانا ... ولكن لحظات قصار فيها غانمين

وتعود الاوضاع للرتابة ... وللتغير نظل منتظرين

لست انا من يبوح ... بالمعاناة فيها يموج

لست انا من ينوح .... من جرح فى فؤادى يفور

لست انا من يناحر عدو ظالم فى الافق يلوح ..

لست انا من يعادى حبيب قادم بالوصل يعود

الحديقة العامة ... السلام

إنه يسير فى تلك الحديقة العامة القريبة من منزله، ومعه صديقاه عبدالحى ورؤوف، وقد وصلوا إلى تلك الكافتيرا التى امام البحيرة الصناعية، والتى يصفوا مائها وتنعكس عليها الاضواء، واصبح منظرها رائع خلاب يخطف الابصار. وبعد ان أخذوا امكانهم على تلك المقاعد التى تكون دائرة حول الطاولة المستديرة وعليها الاكواب الفاغة للمياة المعدينة، حيث القارورة المتواجدة بينهم.

وبعد ان اخذوا امكانهم على المقاعد وحول الطاولة، دار الحديث بينهم، فى العديد من المواضيع المتنوعة. فهم يتحدثوا عن اخبارهم وما يحدث فى عوائهم واسرهم، ومن تصرفات بعض الافراد، وكيف يعيشوا حياتهم، وما هى الاحداث التى تمر بهم، وان هذا شئ مألوف ومعتاد فى مثل تلك المجتمعات وبين الافراد والجماعات من اهل وجيران واصدقاء. فإنها بساطة تلك الايام والحياة الهادئة المستقرة التى يعيشونها، بعيدا عن تقيدات الحياة التى تواجه كل انسان بعد ذلك، حيث مر الايام وجرى السنين، وتكاثر الاعباء والمسئوليات وتراكم الالتزامات، والضعف والوهن الذى يصب الانسان من عوامل الزمن وكبر السن. إنها أيام الصيف الحار، ولكنهم فى الليل السامر والهواء البارد والجميل الذى يأتيهم من كل جانب، ولم يستعد ايا منهم بملابس ثقيله، إنهم بالبنطلونات وال تى شيرت، حيث هذه ملابس الصيف ومثل هذه الاجواء، وعلى كلا فهو جو مازال مقبول، ويمكن تحمل هذه النسمات اللطيفة الجميلة من الهواء البارد، وأن كان يشتد برودة كلما تأخر الوقت ليلا.

فتحدث رؤوف وقال متسائلا هل من الممكن أهله من أجل الحصول على أيا من تلك الرغبات والاحيتاجات المشروعة والتى تكاد تكون مستحيلة فى مجتمعنا هذا، وهو رغم ذلك يعيش فى حنانهم ودفئهم، وهذه الاشياء التى لان تنفع فى بناء مسقبل، او يغير من أجل اوضاع افضل، وفى تحقيق ما يسعى الانسان من أجله. فعندك محمود سامى صديقنا، والذى سافر منذ شهور إلى فرنسا، ويقال أنه قرر الهجرة إليها بحيث

يظل هناك سنوات عديدة حتى يحصل على الجنسية، ويريد بان يعيش هناك حياته بعد ان يأس من ايجاد الحياة الكريمة ويحقق طموحاته والتى تدعم هناك ومستحيلة هنا. إنها الضغوط الحياة الصعبة واعبائها، التى جعلته يهاجر ويترك بلده الواسعة الشاسعة الاطراف بمدنها الجميلة وناسها الطيبين ودفئها وجوها الجميل. إنه ليس وحده، و لكن كل الشباب يسافر ويطلب الهجرة إلى تلك الدول الاجنبية التى توفر لهم ما يريدوا من حياة احسن وافضل، مما هو فى بلادهم من حيث الرخاء الاقتصادى والاجتماعى، والمستويات المعيشية الافضل. فرد عليه عبدالحى ولما لا؟ فإن ضاقت عليكم الارض بما فرحبت فأسعوا فى مناكبها، والهجرة والسفر من الاشياء المشروعة والمحمودة، وليس فيها ما يعيب، وانما هؤلاء يريدوا بان يبدأوا حياتهم من جديد، وان يكافحوا لصلوا إلى تحقيق ما يسعوا من أجله كل انسان منا، فى حياة هادئة أمنة مستقرة، ويكون له شأنه وكيانه فيها واهميته، فى المجتمع الذى يعيش فيه.

وقد كنت اتابع الحوار بينهما، ولم اتدخل كعادتى فى الحوار إلى حين يشتد النقاش بينهما، واعلق ع لى ما تجود به قريحتى من آراء، واضرب الامثلة إذا كان هناك شئ منها فى هذا القبيل، أو احلل الامر والحدث، ونحاول بان نصل إلى افضل تلك النتائج الممكنة، او حتى تغيير الموضوع فى نهاية المطاف، إذا طالت المناقشة ولم نصل إلى نتيجة ترضى جميع الاطراف، وكلا يظل محتفظا برأيه كما هو، ووجهة نظره حيال هذه النقاط والجوانب فى الحياة التى تم التطرق إليها. إن رؤوف يتحدث وينظر إلى الامور نظرة موضوعية، وهنا يعلق ويسألنى ما رأيك، فى هذا الموضوع، ولكن لم يكن لدى تعليق، واخبرتهم بان موضوع السفر والهجرة وخاصة بين السباب ، هو شئ حيوي وتتحدث عنه وسائل الاعلام المختلفة هذه الايام، والجدل كبير فى هذا الموضوع، فهناك من يؤيد ويدعم ويوافق على السفر واهجرة للشباب، حيث يمكن بان يكونوا سفراء لبلادهم، وصورة مشرفة للمجتمعاتهم فى الخارج، حيث البطالة فى مجتمعاتنا، والكثير من الفرص الضائعة، وايضا يمكن بان يكون هناك المزيد من تدفق العملة الصعبة، يمكن بان تتم عن طريقهم على المدى المتوسط او البعيد. والرأى الآخر يعارض وبشدة حيث انه اهدار لطاقات السباب، حيث المجتمع الذى انجبهم وصرف عليها الكثير من أجل تعليمهم، خلال مراحل دراستهم وعلاجهم وتوفير الكثير من الخدمات لهم، ولابد من

ان يعود نفعها على مجتمعاتهم بدعمهم لها وعلى بلادهم بكل خير يرجى وينتظر، وأنهم الثروة الحقيقة التى تستثمر فيهم. وبذلك يكون الوضع افضل لهم ولنا، وايضا قد يحدث الكثير من تلك الانحرافات وخاصة بين الشباب، والذى قد يصطدم بين واقعه المر والاليم، والواقع المتحضر والاكثر رخاءا وتقدما فى الحضارة الحديثة. ومازالوا يتحدثوا وفد احضر الجرسون الطلبات، فمن طلب المشروبات الدافئة مثل الينسون، ومنهم من طلب المشروبات الباردة من عصيرات طبيعية كالبرتقال. إنه مرحلة من اجمل المراحل وفيها اجل اللحظات التى يمروا بها، والتى قد لا تعود وتتكرر مرة اخرى، فيما بينهم بنفس هذا الصفاء والود والحالة النفسية والوجدانية، والجو الجميل الرائع والهدوء الذى يسودهم، حيث المسئوليات مازالت خفيفة، والالتزامات ايضا كذلك، ولذلك فإنهم ايضا يتحدثوا فيما بينهم.

بيت على الاغصان

وارض وسماء بلا شطآن
ونسر جارح يطل على الاوطان

ونهر جارى على مر الزمان
وطريق نسير فيه بنور وعلم وايمان

ونخاف ان نضل فنهوى فى جحيم ونيران
واروع ما يروى لنا الايام على مر الزمان

من حكايات وقصص فيها عبر ومأسى وفكاهة ونسيان
وسجلات لنا فيها بياض وفيها سواد وفيها الوان

وتأريخ لنا فيه ..و ذكريا واحداث
وتاريخ وامجاد الاباء والاجداد فيه بريق ولمعان

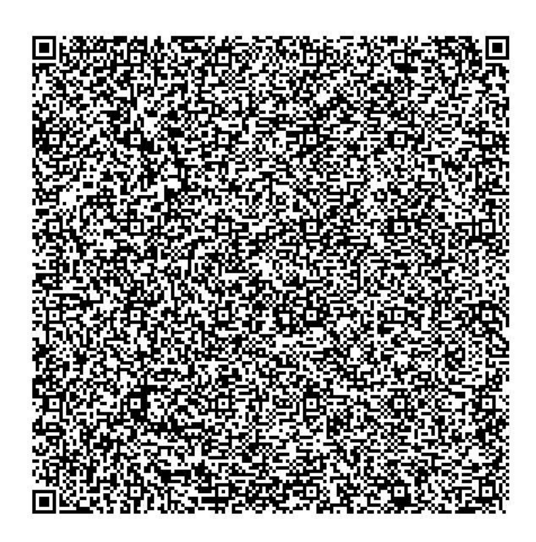
ترويه لنا الايام بدمائهم وكفاحهم فى تلك الازمان

انطلاقاته ... ترهاته
ردهاته .... هيلماناته
اثاره ... مبانيه ... قصوره ... حضاراته
جوار منشآته
من صغره حتى مماته
تربيته نشأته علاقاته معاملاته
كيف نلمع له آرائه افكاره منطقه كلماته ملحقاته
حتى يكون لها معانى ودلالاته ومغازيه فى حواراته ومناقشاته

ويكون فيها شعوره واحاسيسه ووجدانياته وتنمو له ملكاته ويحقق ذاته وانجازاته
حتى يشارك فى فكر انسانى بثقافاته ومساهماته باضافاته

فتظل معه خلال حياته تدعمه فى كفاحه ونضاله ومساره
وتظله فى آخرته وبعد مماته ... سيره عطره

وتخلد ذكراه .. ويصبح نتاجه عماده



سورة الاعلى

المنطقة تأخرت كثيرا

العرب ومساراهم وصورتهم المؤلمة من الوضع الذى يطالعنا على واقع مر اصبحت فيه المنطقة، وكيف وجدنا ان هناك من كان فى تلك المستويا ..... **المزيد**

دوامة المعاناة التى تعيشها المنطقة

العرب ومسارهم فى النهضة الحضارية والسير قدما نحو تحقيق افضل ما يمكن مما سوف يكون له دوره واثره الايجابى والفعال فى حضارة ال ..... **المزيد**

الدواء المر ... والمسار المضئ

هل يتجرع العرب الدواء المر من اجل الشفاء مما ألم بهم من معاناة ومصاعب وتعقيدات ومسارات غير أمنة العواقب، فلابد من ان يكون هنا ..... **المزيد**

معارك مع الحياة

عام هجرى انتهى وهناك آخر عام ميلادى سوف ينتهى واحداث مرت على المنطقة والعالم فيه الكثير من تلك الامور التى قد تفرح البعض، وا ..... **المزيد**

ألم يحن الوقت بعد

ألم يحن الوقت بعد من اجل استقرار المنطقة والقيام بالمشروعات العملاقة التى هى من طموحات المنطقة فى بان يصبح هناك النهضة الحض ..... **المزيد**

اندماجات فيها من الفشل

اندماجات فيها من الفشل إن هناك من الامور الخطيرة التى تهدد الامة العربية والاسلامية وبالتالى العالم اجمع، فهذه امور اصبحت ..... **المزيد**

حالة فريدة ... والطريق المنير

الكل فى صدمة مما يحدث فى المنطقة من هذه التوترات التى حدثت من جراء صدفة او موعد قد ازف لحدوث هذا التغير التاريخى والجذرى فى ..... **المزيد**

لن يكون سهلا .... بين يوم وليلة

إنها احداث شديدة الوطأة على المنطقة يجب بان يتم العمل على تجنب اثارها السلبية ومساوئها التى تنتج عنها، ولها خطراها الممتد جغر ..... **المزيد**

رؤية صحيحة وفكر صائب ومنهج سليم

قد يكون هناك من تلك السلبيات والمساوئ التى تحتاج إلى معالجات جذرية، وان توضع الحلول وما يلزمها من اجراءات تتخذ فى هذا الشأن، ..... **المزيد**

الحاضر والواقع مؤلم

إنها الاحداث بالمنطقة التى تسير على وتيرة بان التغير لابد منه واننا قد اصبحنا فى مرحلة مختلفة عما سبق، وان لابد من ان نبدأ مر ..... **المزيد**

نحن ... وعالم اليوم المعاصر

إن هناك ازمات سياسية فيها من اختلاف وجهات النظر، والتى فيها من المصالح التى يحاول فيها كل طرف بان يحافظ على ما لديه، وما يمكن ..... **المزيد**

وهذا ما لا يرتضيه احد

كلنا يعلم ما يحدث فى المنطقة فى هذه المرحلة التاريخية والانتقالية من اوضاع واحوال كانت ومضت، وما سوف يكون من اوضاع واحوال جدي ..... **المزيد**

بين الواقع والتوقعات

كان هناك التوقعات بان دول الربيع العربى سوف تكون قدوة فى النظام السياسى الجديد الذى سوف يختاره الشعب، من اجل ان يحيا الحياة ..... **المزيد**

مختلف المجالات والميادين

كان هناك التوقعات بان دول الربيع العربى سوف تكون قدوة فى النظام السياسى الجديد الذى سوف يختاره الشعب، من اجل ان يحيا الحياة ..... **المزيد**

محاولات الانقاذ والتوترات المستمرة

سوف تكون هناك اوضاع مستجدة فى المنطقة هذا مما لاشك فيه، وانه يجب بان يكون هناك المسار الصحيح نحو الافضل فى تحقيق افضل ما يمكن ..... **المزيد**

الاعداد الجيد والمناسب

ما يحدث الان على الساحة العربية وما قد وصلت إليه التطورات السياسية من عنف واضطرابات ومظاهرات فى الكثير من الدول التى اذهلت ..... **المزيد**

المزيد من المعاناة، والخطر المتربص

إنها مازالت نفس التوترات التى لم تهدأ منذ سنوات، وما يتواجد من صراعات بالمنطقة منها الداخلية التى اشتدت فيها الوطأة، واصبح هن ..... **المزيد**

الحياة التى نعيشها

إن الحياة التى نعيشها مليئة بالصعوبات والتعقيدات وهكذا خلقها الله، وانه لابد من التعب والمشقة من اجل الوصول إلى تحقيق رغبات ..... **المزيد**

وجهات نظر

من الذى يحدث الفوضى فى المنطقة، وما هى الاسباب لذلك؟ هل هى وجهات نظر فردية او جماعية او طائفية تصل إلى حدوث هذه الاحدث التى ا ..... **المزيد**

الدعم الازم والمناسب

مراحل مرت بها المنطقة ليست بالسهلة على شعوبها وما يمكن بان يكون هناك من تلك الانجازات الحضارية التى تتحقق فى مجتمعاتها، فلا ت ..... **المزيد**

نبع من حقب زمنية

المنطقة تريد ان تصل إلى افضل المستويات الحضارية وتحقيق ارقى الانجازات للعصر الذى يعيشه العالم اليوم، وهذا لا يمكن بان يتحقق ..... **المزيد**

التغير المطلوب

المنطقة والتطورات المتوترة التى تحدث بها، وما أصبح هناك من هذه الاوضاع الداخلية التى تقلق الجميع، والمرحلة التى تمر بها من تو ..... **المزيد**

مازالت اثارها باقية

ما الذى حدث فى المرحلة التاريخية الاخيرة فى الشرق الاوسط، من خلال متغيرات جذرية فى بضع الدول لها تأثيرها الكثير والخطير على ..... **المزيد**

بين الحين والاخر

مسارات فى المنطقة اصبحت غير واضحة المعالم، فهناك من هو متفائل مما سوف يتبلور عنه مستقبل الامة، من افضل الاوضاع السياسية بما ي ..... **المزيد**

العلم والمعرفة ونافذة على العالم

مجتمعات فيها من المتغيرات والتطورات، والذى قد يكون فى جميع دول العالم، وهذا ما يحدث فى الحياة وفى عالمنا اليوم الذى نعيشه، ..... **المزيد**

حالة مختلفة ... التعامل مع التطورات

حال الامة العربية خلال قرن من الزمان، او حتى نصف قرن من الزمان، هل تغير وتبدل من حال إلى ما هو افضل، لاشك بان هناك متغيرات ك ..... **المزيد**

رؤية ضبابية

الاستمرار فى مشكلات سياسية لا تنتهى بالمنطقة، وماا قد يصاحبها من تطورات اخرى فى مشكلات قد لا تكون على البال، مما يؤدى إلى ح ..... **المزيد**

زيادة عن المألوف

الازمات السياسية التى تحدث فى المنطقة ليست بالسهلة، وانما هى من اعقد الازمات فى العالم، والتى تحتاج إلى ان يكون هناك تلك المع ..... **المزيد**

افضل النتائج المرجوة والمنشودة

الفرص التى تتاح من اجل القيام بالتعاون اللازم فى مختلف المجالات والميادين، لابد بان تستغل افضل استغلال، وان يتم العمل على الق ..... **المزيد**

السير فى امان وتجنب الاخطار

إنها حالات التكتلات التى لابد منها فى عالمنا المعاصر، فما يحدث من تعاون فى اية مجال وخاصة ميدان السياسية والاقتصاد هو من تلك ..... **المزيد**

لماذا تعيش الامة فى الاحزان

مسارات اصبحت متشعبة تحتاج إلى ان تصل إلى الاستقرار المنشود، وما يمكن بان يكون هناك من المعالجات والحلول اللازمة للمعضلات التى ..... المزيد

تفاؤل حذر والاحتمالات الممكنة

إن هناك المسار الذى اختارته المنطقة من اجل استقرارها واصلاح الاوضاع بها، مسار السلام الذى ينشده الجميع، ولكن يجب بان يكون فى ..... المزيد

الظروف الصعبة والقريب او البعيد

توترات المنطقة ومسارات متشعبة، وقضايا حيوية وجوهرية فى انتظار المعالجات والحلول الجذرية، وان هناك الوضع المستقر لشعوب المنطقة ..... المزيد

السياسية الحكيمة

إن المنطقة تسير فى طريق ملئ بالتوترات السياسية التى تحتاج إلى تلك السياسية الحكيمة التى تعيد الاستقرار إليها، وما يمكن بان يؤ ..... المزيد

بدء التعامل مع المراحل الجديد

إنها تلك العوامل والمؤثرات التى تضافرت من أجل حدوث هذه الهزات السياسية الهائلة فى المنطقة التى تعج بالمشكلات منذ القدم، ولم ت ..... المزيد

تساؤلات تظل مستمرة

تساؤلات تظل مستمرة فى ظل حالة التوترات السياسية حول امكانية حدوث استقرار فى المنطقة فى المرحلة المقبلة تنهض بالأمة نحو اوضاع ..... المزيد

ما نسعى من أجله

إننا قد نرى كل تلك التحديات من حيث من يحاولوا بأن يقفزوا إلى الدرجات الأعلى، والذى من شانها بأن يحتاج إلى تلك المواصفات اللاز ..... المزيد

فى الميزان .. نجاح وفشل

سيظل هناك التساؤل المستمر عن اسباب توترات المنطقة بهذا الاسلوب الذى فيه استمرارية وتواصل لا ينقطع، وما قد أصبح هناك من رفض لل ..... المزيد

التعامل بالحكمة

مازالت الاوضاع السياسية فى المنطقة لا تسر فيها من التوترات السياسية ما يقلق، وتحتاجه شعوب المنطقة من استقرار لم يتحقق بعد، حي ..... المزيد

الداء الذى اصاب الامة

إننا فى مأزق عربى لا يعلم أحد كيف يمكن الخروج منه. إننا نحاول بأن نستعين بالدول الكبرى فى حل مشاكلنا، والدول الكبرى تلجأ إلى ..... المزيد

إن هناك تطلعات من اجل المعرفة

الانسان يخوض فى كل المجالات والميادين، ما قد يكون ضرورى وهام ويعتبر من الاساسيات فى الحياة، وايضا يخوض فيما قد يكون من الكمال ..... **المزيد**

المستقبل بين التفاؤل والتشاؤم

هل هناك التفاؤل من مستقبل منشود ستعيشه شعوب المنطقة بعد كل هذه الاحداث الهائلة التى تشهدها المنقطة فى هذه المرحلة الحرجة من ت ..... **المزيد**

المشهد الحالى والتطورات المثيرة للجدل

هل ستكون الاوضاع افضل فى مستقبل مشرق تنشده شعوب المنطقة، من اجل انهاء المعاناة والصعوبات والتعقيدات فى شئون حياتهم والتدهور ا ..... **المزيد**

الوضع الجديد والمستقبل

هل سيصبح هناك الوضع الجديد الذى فيه تحقيق ما تنشده شعوب المنطقة من تلك الحياة السياسية السليمة والصحيحة التى ليس فيها ما يعكر ..... **المزيد**

نعم يا سيدى الفاضل

إن المحاولات من اجل وضع المعالجات والحلول من خلال السياسيات الاقليمية والدولية تسير على قدم وساق فى الاطار المحدد لها، ومحاول ..... **المزيد**

اسس جديدة حديثة

إن هناك تطورات سياسية تحدث فى المنطقة تعالج ما قد وصلت إليه الاوضاع من تدهور يحتاج إلى سرعة تدارك وانقاذ قبل حدوث المزيد مما ..... **المزيد**

باخلاص واتقان وامانة

إن هناك واقع جديد ومختلف فى المنطقة التى تغيرت وتطورت فيها الاحداث بشكل كبير لم يكن متوقع على الاطلاق، بان يكون هناك مثل هذا ..... **المزيد**

من اجل الاصلاح ومشاركات ومساهمات

تطورات المنطقة تسير فى طريق بحيث يمكن بان يكون هناك ما تنشده شعوب المنطقة، فالاوضاع اصبحت فى حالة مختلفة وتشهد متغيرات يمكن ب ..... **المزيد**

مستقبل جديد .. مختلف جذريا

إذا هناك ما يمكن بان يكون له ايجابياته وسلبياته فى تحقيق ما تنشده شعوب المنطقة فى خلال الفترة القادمة التى ستكون مرحلة جديدة ..... **المزيد**

تحولات جذرية .. ومسار جديد

إن الصعوبات والتعقدات فى منطقة الشرق الاوسط تزداد اتساعا، ولا نجد من يستطيع بان يعالج القضايا التى تعج بها المنطقة من اقصى ال ..... **المزيد**

متغيرات هائلة

إن هناك متغيرات هائلة قد حدثت فى المنطقة والتى اصبح فيها سياسيات مختلفة عما كان عليه الوضع فى السابق، وما وصلت إليه الامور من ..... **المزيد**

نحو حياة افضل

إن هناك حالة من التردى الشديد فى منطقة الشرق الاوسط سياسيا، حيث ان متطلبات الاصلاح كثيرة، وتحسين مستويات المعيشة التى يجب بان ..... **المزيد**

كنا نصمد كنا نكافح

كيف يمكن بان نحافظ ونحمى مجتمعاتنا كيف يمكن بان نحقق اهدافنا كيف يمكن بان نبنى ونصون منشآتنا كيف يمكن بان يكون لنا أمان فى ..... **المزيد**

صوت الالام والاحزان

إن الوضع العربى اصبح فى حالة من التوتر السياسي والتدهور الامنى الذى يحتاج إلى ان يكون هناك صمام الامان والطريق المؤدى إلى الا ..... **المزيد**

الكل كان متفائلا ... لحل ايجابى فى المرحلة المقبلة

فرنسا مثلها مثل اية دولة فى العالم تريد بان تناقش مشكلاتها الدخلية وتضع لها الحلول المناسبة التى تحافظ على كيانها وتبعد عنها ..... **المزيد**

الاندماج الحضارى ... مسار اجبارى

إن ما وصلت إلى الاوضاع فى منطقة الشرق الاوسط من التوترات السياسية لا يمكن بان يتم فصلها عن عملية السلام فى الشرق الاوسط حيث ا ..... **المزيد**

الافتراس الطبيعى والحضارى

كيف يمكن التعامل مع الحاضر من خلال رؤية الماضى الذى اصبحنا نتألم منه فى ما قد حدث من كل تلك الاحداث المأساوية التى نراها من ح ..... **المزيد**

الكثير من تلك المتغيرات والتطورات

إن الذى يحدث الان فى المنطقة من صراع قديمة واخرى حديثة هى مأساة لأمة العربية تضاف إلى مأساتها المتزايدة والمستمرة عبر العصور ..... **المزيد**

ماذا يحدث فى منطقة الشرق الاوسط

إن الذى يحدث الان فى المنطقة من صراع قديمة واخرى حديثة هى مأساة لأمة العربية تضاف إلى مأساتها المتزايدة والمستمرة عبر العصور ..... **المزيد**

فى مستقبل قريب

إن العصر الذى نعيشه حدثت فيه طفرة تقنية هائلة، ادت إلى حدوث متغيرات وتطورات بل وقفزات متسارعة فى القيام باداء الكثير من المها ..... **المزيد**

فى بلادنا ... من اجل الافضل

ما وصلت إليه الاوضاع فى المنطقة اصبح فى غاية التوتر والتدهور السياسيى الذى يحتاج إلى اين يكون هناك عودة إلى الاستقرار والهدوء ..... المزيد

الانجراف نحو الهاوية

إن المرحلة الحالية من الكثير من القضايا العربية اصبحت فى حالة تطورات شديدة، سوف يكون لها تأثيرها الهائل فى مستقبل المنطقة، وا ..... المزيد

مرحلة تاريخية جديدة

ما يحدث الان فى المنطقة من تطورات سياسية قد جعل هناك مرحلة تاريخية جديدة تعيشها المنطقة من خلال ان يكون هناك استقرار او ما يؤ ..... المزيد

مشروع حضارى .... فكر وتنفيذ

ايدينا دائما مرفوعة مطالبنا دائما مشروعة نزرع ونحصد ونطور ونستعين التعاون البطئ والسريع حديث واختلاف فى رؤية الاخرين قب ..... المزيد

بدون بنج أو مخدر موضعى او كلى اجرى الطبيب للمريض عملية جراحية

إنه له اسلوب استورده من من اية بلاد لا ندرى فالعالم فسيح أو اية فكر شيطانى ليئم ... أتاه بعد يأس مرير ما تنظر بان يكون ..... المزيد

قلب موازين سياسية واجتماعية

لبنان لها وضع يختلف كثيرا عن باقى الدول العربية من حيث طبيعتها السياسية وما فيها من طوئف متعددة ومذهبيات ولها ايضا تاريخها وح ..... المزيد

الوضع الراهن وما يتم بناءه او حصاده

إنها مراحل نمر بها وفيها يتم القيام بما يجب عليه بان يكون وفقا للكثير من تلك الاعتبارات التى تتحدد بناءا على شخصياتنا، وما يم ..... المزيد

نوعا من الغرابة والتساؤلات

الانسان البصير قد يغفل عما يتناوله من طعام، وقد يصيبه المرض نتيجة ما تناوله من اطعمة قد تكون فاسدة او ملوثة او ما شابه ذلك، أ ..... المزيد

الكثير من المخاطر

مازالت اسرائيل حكومة وشعبا تتعطش إلى الحرب على المدن العربية المحتلة وخاصة هذه المدينة الباسلة الصامدة المناضلة والمنكوبة غزة ..... المزيد

ثورات فى المنطقة

إن هناك محاولات من اجل السلام يقوم بها الطرفين العربى والاسرائيلى من اجل تحقيق الاتفاق النهائى للسلام وانهاء الصراع العربى ال ..... المزيد

فن التعامل مع اسباب النجاح

الوضع الراهن فى غزة خطير وفى امس الحاجة إلى الانقاذ مما آلت إليه الاوضاع المتأزمة نظرا للحصار وما يحدث من الاعتداءات الاسرائي ..... **المزيد**

بين الحين والاخر

هناك كارثة خطيرة حلت على اليابان من جراء الزلزال المدمر الذى وقع فى الايام القليلة الماضية ومازالت هناك توابعه وما تأثرت به م ..... **المزيد**

نعم استطيع التغيير ....

هناك اصرار عربى على ان لا يكون هناك اية تدخلات اجنبية فى الشئون الداخلية للدول العربية، وما يحدث فى اية دولة عربية من تطورات ..... **المزيد**

التحديات ليست بالسهلة

الكل يعيد حساباته فى كيفية التعامل مع الاحداث الراهنة بالمنطقة والتطورات السياسية الاخيرة التى حدثت، وادت إلى حدوث ما لم يكن ..... **المزيد**

انظار العالم نحو الشرق الاوسط

ليس لاحد فضل على المتغيرات والتطورات التى تحدث فى المنطقة وتؤدى إلى انهيارات سياسية فهى مثل الحمل الذى ثقل على الدابة فوقعت، ..... **المزيد**

دول العالم النامى

فوضى عارمة فى منطقة الشرق الاوسط، الشعوب تثور على حكامها، ترفض مزيدا من الاوضاع المتردية سياسيا واقتصاديا، وتريد التغيير. هذه ..... **المزيد**

فى ظل خضم الاحداث الراهنة

العرب فى مرحلة تعتبر من اعقد مراحل تاريخها، حيث هناك الصراعات الخارجية اي مع العالم فى تحديات حضارية معاصرة، وفى الوقت نفسه ه ..... **المزيد**

شديدة الخطورة

إن ما حدث فى تونس ثورة على اوضاع كانت شديدة الخطورة لم تكن واضحة المعالم سواء على المستوى العربى او الاقليمى او العالمى، إن ..... **المزيد**

ما حدث من خلل

ما يحدث فى العالم العربى من اضطرابات سياسية فى هذه المرحلة من الخطورة بحيث انها فى تشكيل ما قد يكون تاريخ جديد فى الشرق الاوس ..... **المزيد**

إلى متى سنظل فى مأساة؟

إلى متى ستظل غزة فى مأساة تعيشها تحت نيران الكيان الصهيونى الذى يستمر فى القيام بالغارات الجوية والعسكرية والقيام بقصف المنشأ ..... **المزيد**

ضررها اكثر من نفعها

إن اليأس الفلسطينى يستوجب اتخاذ مثل هذه القرارات والخطوات من اجل اعلان الدولة الفلسطينية طالما انه ليس هناك من يستيطيع القيام ..... المزيد

المزيد من العراقيل

إن عملية السلام متعثرة وهذا هو الوضع الحالى، والكل يدرك جيدا لماذا هذه الحالة الصعبة والمعقدة التى وصلت إليها عملية السلام فى ..... المزيد

صل نفسك بالعالم أينما رحلت أو حللت

فيما يبدو بأنه سوف يكون الانترنت من الضروريات التى لن يستغنى عنها فى حياته، سواء ا:ان فى بلده أو فى سفرياته، مثل باقى الضرو ..... المزيد

فى انتظار ما يخبأه المجهول

مازال هناك العقبة التى تعترض طريق السلام الاستيطان الذى يرفضه العرب ويصر عليه الاسرئيليين وبذلك توقفت المفاضات المباشرة والغي ..... المزيد

فى غاية الاهمية

إن الرئيس الفلسطينى فى صراعه مع رئيس الوزراء الاسرائيلى فى محاولة المعالجة الفعالة والايجابية للعضلات الوضع الراهن فى الصرا ..... المزيد

قضايا هامة

هناك الكثير من تلك المشكلات التي قد تعترض الطريق من وقت إلى آخر وينبغي لنا أن ندرك جديداً كل ما لابد لنا من القيام به بالأسلو ..... المزيد

احترم نفسك يحترمك الاخرين

إن تركيا دولة اسلامية وبها من المساجد الحديثة والقديمة والتاريخية والمتاحف والاثار الاسلامية التى قد لا تتواجد فى اية دولة اخ ..... المزيد

حياة مليئة بالآلام والأحزان

إننا قد نجد أنفسنا نعيش في مأساة حقيقية، ونحتاج إلى أن يكون هناك الوضع المناسب لكل فرد وفقاً لكل تلك الأصول والأعراف المت ..... المزيد

هناك تهاون ... وهذه الهزات

إن هناك مرحلة فى غاية الخطورة سوف تمرعلى الامة العربية والاسلامية من جراء كل تلك المستجدات التى تحدث والتى انعكست ولم تعد فى ..... المزيد

المأزق ... امام الجميع

عمل يدل على مدى الحقد المتواجد لدى الاخر تجاة الاسلام بل الديانات السماوية جمعاء. إنه الانتقام الاعمى الذى يقود إلى تدمير ..... المزيد

بعيدة عن العقل والمنطق

إن امريكا وضعت كل تلك النتائج التى توصل إليها المبعوث الامريكى ميتشل فى جولاته المكوكية للمنطقة، والقيام بالدراسات والابحاث ا ..... **المزيد**

الكلام فيما قل وجل

سبحان الله والحمد لله تسابق إليها كل نية وتطاوع كل طوية، وتجمع عليها اشتات البريه، الحمد لله تستهل بها الغمام، ويتهلل البدر ا ..... **المزيد**

إمكانية التعامل مع مختلف الظروف

إمكانية التعامل مع مختلف تلك الظروف التى قد تستجد، وتنشا فى الكثير والعديد من تلك المتغيرات التى تصبح فى أشكال مختلفة، ونجد ..... **المزيد**

مع الاثير، رسالة

الحمد لله الذى اسبغ انعامه باطنا وظاهرا، وسوغ افضاله هاملا وهامرا، واعجز عن وصف آلائه ناظما وناثرا، وقهر الخلق ناهيا وامرا، و ..... **المزيد**

لقد حانت اللحظة الحاسمة

إن الحر يتسبب فى الكثير من الاذى للأنسان فى اية مكان واية زمان، فهو منالممكن بان يؤدى إلى استعال الحرائق، وكثيرا ما نسمع ذلك، ..... **المزيد**

منافذ الأفكار والأراء

لا أحد ينكر أن الأكتشافات العلمية الحديثة ساهمت فى حد كبير فى أسعاد البشرية على مر العصور وأن فى هذا الكون خفايا لايعلما إلا ..... **المزيد**

مع المساكين والفقراء

مع المساكين والفقراء فى الحوارى والاكواخ فى الليل وفى النهار فى الخير والشر فى الرخاء والقحط دائما معاهم ... افرح واحزن ..... **المزيد**

الخطر لم يزول بعد

إن ما يحدث من تعثر فى عودة المفاوضات المباشرة او الغير مباشرة بين الطرفين العربى والاسرائيلى هو من اجل مزيدا من تلك التعقيد ..... **المزيد**

صدقة يتبعها اذى

لابد إذاً من وضوح الرؤية التى قد تكون غامضة ومشوبة، وذلك نظراً للكثير من تلك العوامل المؤثرة فى هذه الأحوال، من حيث التعاطف ..... **المزيد**

اطباء .. خبراء .. علماء

كيف تكون من المجهول والمعلوم فنحن فى مسارنا نؤدى ادوار لها نكون ونحاول بان تدوم وهم لهم مسارات تؤدى ادوار قد لا نعلمها له ..... **المزيد**

كيف كان وكيف يكون

المناقشات من اجل الاتفاق او الاعتراض الحاضر والمستقبل كيف كان وكيف يكون الاعتراض من اجل الحفاظ على الحقوق العامة والخاصة ..... المزيد

شباب اليوم والغد

أنا اهم وافضل مرة اخرى بعد ان كانت عير الحدود والبحار فأصحبت فى العمل ووضح النهار ثم فى المنزل وفى المأوى والابحار ثم م ..... المزيد

البداية ... واحلام .... وطموحات

فراغ فضاء ناس زحام ضجيج سكون هدوء صراخ تسلط فى العلن والخفاء بمكر وغباء بكاء وكوارث ونكبات وفكر ليس فيه ذكاء او د ..... المزيد

النقاط الواضحة المعالم

إن هناك اعصار مدمر فى عمان يجب بان يتم الاغاثة باسر ع ما يمكن وان يكون هناك تلك الجهات العربية والاقليمية والدولية فى ا ..... المزيد

الظاهر الجميل .. والالم الدفين

الظاهر الجميل .. والالم الدفين هل آن للقدس بان تعود وهل لها سنعيد مجدا تليد هل ستتحرر ارض فيها احتلال بغيض كئيب ام هل سي ..... المزيد

هذه الفترة والمرحلة الحرجة

ان ما يريده العرب فى قضيتهم مع الصراع العربى الاسرائيلى هو الحصول على حقوقهم المشروعة، والمدعمة دوليا، ولكن نجد بان اسرائيل ..... المزيد

الطوارئ التى تستلزم اليقظة

إنه قد هناك تلك الرؤية المختلفة التى تتم من خلال اكتساب الخبرات فى مجال ما، ويمكن بان يتم من خلالها التعامل مع كل ما قد اصب ..... المزيد

المناهج المتبعة والاساليب والطرق التقليدية والحديثة

إن هناك الكثير مما يحتاج إلى ان نتعرف عليه والذى لا يمكن بان يتم فى مرحلة واحدة، او فى فترة واحدة، ولابد من التدرج من اجل ا ..... المزيد

حضور الجدد ـ الاستعدادات اللازمة

إننا نسير فى مسارات قد يكون فيها الوعى المبكر لما يمكن بان نؤديه من اعمال فيها النفع والفائدة المرجوة التى تحقق افضل ما يمك ..... المزيد

اعظم النيران من مستصغر الشرر

انها المشكلات التى تزاحمنا الحياة فيها سواءا رضينا ام ابينا، وانها دائما تحثنا على ايجاد الحلول والمعالجات والتوصل إلى افضل ..... المزيد

أولويات لا يمكن الاستغناء عنها

إنها الاولويات التى يجب بان نتخذها فالاعتبار عند القيام باية عمل من الاعمال، فإن الامان والسلامة تتصدان هنا هذا الشأن والذى ..... **المزيد**

الشباب والمستقبل

إن هناك الكثير من تلك الأشياء التى نجد بأننا يجب علينا بأن ننجزها، وأن نقوم بها، وعليه فإننا قد نجد بأن الكثير من الشباب لد ..... **المزيد**

انتعاش وركود

قد نجد بان هناك فترات إزداهار وأخرى كساد فى كل ما قد نمر به من مسارات فى مختلف شئون ومجالات الحياة، فإنها الطبيعة التى نتعرف ..... **المزيد**

الصراع التاريخى والازلى

إنها قد تكون وعود صادقة من الرئيس الامريكى اوباما فى ان يكون عهده افضل ممن سبقه فى تحقيق السلام المنشود فى الشرق الاوسط، وح ..... **المزيد**

اعتماداً على الجهود الذاتية

أعتقد بأن الوقت قد حان من أجل أفتتاح المزيد من تلك المحطات الإذاعية والتليفزيونية الحكومية الفعالة والهادفة، والتى قد تستوعب ..... **المزيد**

قضايا الشباب فى الصيف

أرجوا بأن يكون هناك المزيد من الأهتمام بالشباب من قبل أجهزة الدولة المسئولة، من حيث توفير كل تلك المرافق الحيوية والتى من خ ..... **المزيد**

الحفاظ على مسارات ... ما نفخر به

قد يكون هناك الكثير مما نجده يسير بتلقائية فنظن باننا سوف نسير فى نفس تلك التلقائية بالسهولة واليسر المتوقع، وان ما يحدث من ..... **المزيد**

الظاهر والباطن من الامور والاحداث

إن التعايش سويا قد يكون مستحيلا حيث خصوصيات الناس، ومن هنا نجد الحركة العمرانية التى تنشط من اجل الاستقلالية التى ينشدها ال ..... **المزيد**

تأثيرات ايجابية واخرى سلبية

إننا نتعرف على ما نؤديه من تلك المهام التى نقوم بمزاولتها فى اوقات مجدولة ويتم ذلك بمشاركات بالعديد من تلك الاساليب التى ق ..... **المزيد**

المواسم التى تزدحم (تزدهر) فيها الاعمال

إنها الاعمال التى نقوم بها فى مرحلة ما ونؤدى فيها مما قد يؤدى إلى تحقيق المتطلبات والاحتياجات الضرورية والتى قد تكون عاجلة ..... **المزيد**

الانذار... والخطر المحدق

الدنيا ساعة صفاء فيها امان فيها انام مع الانام فيها اعيش مع ورد الاحلام مع اعذب الالحان فيها الشجا ... فيها كل شئ تخوضه ..... المزيد

اعتبارات توضع فى الحسبان

إنها الشئون العادية التى تتعلق بنا فى مختلف المجالات والمستويات مما يحتاج إلى ان يكون هناك من تلك الجهات التى تدعم ما يتم ا ..... المزيد

بناء من عطاء وتواصل

قد يكون هناك مسار طبيعى نسير فيه سواءا اكان ذلك مريح وسهل وبسيط اوة صعب ومعقد ومزعج ايضا، ولكن نجد بانه لا سبيل اخر يمكن با ..... المزيد

مدى خطورة الوضع

إن الانسان يسجل كل ما يحدث من حوله بشكل مباشر وغير مباشر، وما يمكن بان يكون بكافة تلك الوسائل والأساليب المتاحة، وما هو تقل ..... المزيد

مسار لا نهاية له

الانسان يخوض فى كل المجالات والميادين، ما قد يكون ضرورى وهام ويعتبر من الاساسيات فى الحياة، وايضا يخوض فيما قد يكون من الكم ..... المزيد

مؤشرات خطيرة

إن هناك طموحات ايرانية بان تصل إلى ما تريده من تقنيات نووية سلمية تحقق بها نهضتها الحضارة وان يكون لها وضعها القوى فى العال ..... المزيد

الرؤية الاحصائية مسار طبيعى معروف وآخر مجهول

هناك الكثير من تلك الحقائق فى الحياة التى نراها ونعيش معها، ونسايرها ولا نستطيع بان نغيرها او نمنعها او نعدلها، ولكننا نرضى ..... المزيد

بين القبول والرفض تظل الصراعات

إن هناك طموحات ايرانية بان تصل إلى ما تريده من تقنيات نووية سلمية تحقق بها نهضتها الحضارة وان يكون لها وضعها القوى فى العال ..... المزيد

المعروف والمجهول من اخذ وعطاء

قد ندرك امورا تحدث من حولنا، وما قد يكون فيها من خير وشر، من اعادة ترتيب للأوضاع المختلفة التى نمر بها، وما قد نراه قد اصبح ..... المزيد

تفسيرات للتطورات حديثة وقديمة

هناك مسارات لابد منها، هناك اساسيات لابد منها، وهناك احتياجات ضرورية ايضا لابد منها، وهناك واجبات حتمية لابد منها، انها عنا ..... المزيد

مسارات بين النجاح والفشل

قد يكون هناك دائما تلك الحالة والنمط الشخصى والاجتماعي والبيئي الحضارى والروتينى الذى نظل عليه، فى تفكيرنا لا ندرى كيف يمكن ..... المزيد

دائما هناك المفاجأت

مسارات متعددة متشعبة فيها الكثير من تلك الاحدث التى تتواجد بشكل تموج فيه الحركة والنشاط والهمة، والقيام بكل ما من شأنه تحقي ..... المزيد

ابعاد خارج نطاق الاطار

ما هذا إلا انها الطبيعة التى نتواجد فيها، والتى نتأثر بها، وهناك دائما المزيد مما نتعرف عليه، سواءا اكان شيئا جديدا او قديم ..... المزيد

قوة ردود الفعل لتصرفات الاخرين وتصرفاتنا

هل هناك من تلك المخاوف التى تكمن فى داخلنا مما قد تراكم وتفاقم واصبحنا نحذر ونحترس مما قد يتم من كل تلك الافعال المعاكسة فى ..... المزيد

مازلوا فى البداية

اننا قد وصلنا إلى تلك المراحل التى فيها يمكن بان نؤدى اعمالا ومهاما افضل مما سبق، نظرا للخبرة والتجارب التى مررنا بها، وما ..... المزيد

الالام والجروح

إن هناك قمة عربية على وشك بان تعقد قريبا، وان يتم مناقشة كافة القضايا التى تحتاج الى تلك المعالجات الضرورية، وان يتم العمل ..... المزيد

المعرفة والخبرة والحنكة

إنها الحياة التى تعطى وتأخذ، إنها الغفلة التى قد يسير فيها المرء، إنها الإحتياجات التى قد تطغى لتخفى إحتياجات ورغبات أخرى. ..... المزيد

الأعمال الحالية ودعمها ونجاحها

قد نجد بأن الكثير من تلك الأعمال قد تحتاج إلى ملاحظة مستمرة ومتابعة، وأن يكون هناك الحد الأدنى من الأمن الخاص بمزاولة الأعم ..... المزيد

المتغيرات والحقائق والأوهام

كيف يمكن بأن نصل إلى تلك الرؤية الفعلية لما قد يحدث بين الحين والحين من تلك المتغيرات التى قد تؤثر بشكل فعال فى كل تلك المج ..... المزيد

المأزق الصعب

هل هذا هو الوضع الصحيح الذى وجدنا أنفسنا فيه، وأنه ليس أمامنا ما نستطيع تحقيقه غير الأستمرار فى هذا الوضع العجيب والغريب، و ..... المزيد

الرؤية الحقيقية

الرؤية التى يجب أن تكون لدينا ينبغى أن تبنى على الحقائق فى كل ما يمكننا القيام به من أعمال وتكا ما يجب أن يحدث من تطورات ..... المزيد

البشر ودوافع البطش والخفايا

هؤلاء هم البشر التى تختلف أنماطهم السلوكيه وطبائعهم الطيبة والسيئة من وقت إلى أخر، تحت الكثير من تلك الدوافع التى تدفع بهم ..... **المزيد**

بعضاً من الإحراج

هناك بعض هؤلاء الأشخاص الذين لديهم القدرة على أتخاذ القرارات، ولديهم العصبة أو الجماعة التى تؤيدهم فى التنفيذ، والعمل عل ا ..... **المزيد**

تحقيق الهدف المطلوب

أنه قد أعتاد على أن يذهب إلى العمل صباحاً، ويعود عصراً، وأن يضى وقته فى العمل بين الزملاء، ولكنه فى عزلة، يجلس فى مكتبه ويح ..... **المزيد**

ذلك الرونق الخاص

أنها الذكريات التى تمر على الأنسان فى ماضيه بكل ما فيه من لحظات حلوة وسعيدة، ومرة وقاتمة وحزينة. أنه لا دخل للأنسان فى صنع ..... **المزيد**

هل التغير مستحيل؟

مما لا شك فيه بأن البدء فى إجراء ترتيبات محددة قد يكون مدعماً ويكون هناك من الحماس والأستعداد وبذل كل تلك الجهود فى هذا ا ..... **المزيد**

أحداث وأمور خطيرة

أنها الحياة التى بها العديدمن المتطلبات التى يجب العمل على حلها، والخوض فى كل ما يجب أن يؤدى لنا الدور المطلوب، وهو قد يكون ..... **المزيد**

الأساليب الصحيحة والبديلة لمعالجة المشكلات

أنه من الضرورى القيام ببحث كل تلك الأسباب التى قد أدت إلى حدوث مثل تلك المشكلة فى أياً من تلك المجالات التى قد نجد بأن هن ..... **المزيد**

وتموج الحياة وتعصف الأجواء

أنه لا يدرى كل تلك المواقف التى تحدث من حوله، وهناك الكثير والكثير الذى يريد أن يحققه، فمنها المتطلبات والأحتياجات، وما ق ..... **المزيد**

الوضع الراهن المتدهور

إن المنطقة العربية تعوج بالكثير من المشكلات التى لا حصر لها، كما ان دول العالم النامى فى وضع ليس بالافضل، وهناك محاولة للخر ..... **المزيد**

انها كل تلك الاجواء المتقلبة

نحن الان !!!! وساوس العصر والاوان وخطر يهدد الناس والانام فى كل زمان ومكان بعد ان كنا نعيش فى وئام وامن وامان جا ..... **المزيد**

فى ظل المرحلة الجديدة

إن التطورات التى تحدث فى عالمنا المعاصر يجب بان تراعى كل ما هو قديم من وثائق ومستندات ايا كانت طريقة حفظها، والتى قد تكون ..... **المزيد**

لغز جديد

إن الانسان هو عبارة عن ثلاثة مراحل زمنية يخوض غمارها الحاضر والماضى والمستقبل وهذا شئ طبيعى بان يحزن الانسان على ماضيه الجم ..... **المزيد**

السيطرة على ما قد حدث

إن ما يحدث من تطوير وتحديث ومواكبة بان يكون هناك التعامل السريع والفعال والدقيق والامن للسرية فى التعامل مع الشبكة العالمية ..... **المزيد**

اهل الاعالى والمجد

ذهب الجمال ... واصبح هناك سوء المآل إنه المسار الذى فيه تحتار ... و لا تختار ظلال ديكور الطبيعة الورد والفل والياسمين وز ..... **المزيد**

حين تقال الكلمة وتحدث زوبعة

انفعال ... وحكمة ... واحاسيس حين تقال الكلمة وتحدث زوبعة وهناك من يغضب وهناك من ينفعل وهناك من يحزن وهناك يفرح أو ..... **المزيد**

علمتنى من مدرسة الحياة

واين النفس الزكية وسمو والاشياء والاجلال لماذا القبح فى العالم زاد والازعاج فى كل مكان إن زال عاد أين الهدوء والف ..... **المزيد**

العمل المشترك الذى ينهض بالمجتمع

لقد بدأت القضية الفلسطينية تسير فى ايجاة بعيدا كل البعد عن المسار الحقيقى لها فى تحقيق الاهداف المنشودة من انهاء الصراع الف ..... **المزيد**

إلى بر الامان

المسار الذى يسير فيه العرب وهو مسار السلام والخيار الاستراتيجى الذى تنتهجه المنطقة من اجل احلال السلام فى حاجة الى دفعة وهذ ..... **المزيد**

مرحلة فى غاية التأزم

إن اسرائيل مازالت تناور سياسيا وتحاول بان تكسب وقت لصالحها، ولكنه قد ينعكس عليها باضاعة الوقت فى مزيدا من الصعوبة والتعقيد ..... **المزيد**

ولها شأن كبير

إن ما يحدث فى فلسطين من نزاع داخلى بين مختلف الفصائل الفلسطينية يجب بان يكون بعيدا عن المصلحة العليا الفلسطينية وما يجب بان ..... **المزيد**

الجلسات وحسمها

إن هناك الكثير مما حدث فى الفترة الاخيرة من تاريخ الامة العربية وفى المنطقة التى تشهد توترا وتدهورا سياسيا شديد حيث ان هناك ..... **المزيد**

بين الصفاء والتعكير

لقاءات بين اشخاص هم صالح عبدالرحمن، وعابد مخلوف، وسعيد عبدالواحد وفخرى رستم، ونصار ولى، وفوزى عبدالستار، وابراهيم عبدالغفار ..... **المزيد**

دوره الجوهرى ومجراها الطبيعى

هناك انتخابات فى اسرائيل ولكن من هو الذى سوف يتأثر بهذه الانتخابات انه لن يكون هناك جديد حيث انه معروف جيدا بان السياسة الا ..... المزيد

حدوث فوضى عارمة

ان هناك نشاط مكثف سوف يتم القيام به من قبل الولايات المتحدة الامريكية بخصوص السلام فى الشرق الاوسط، وما يمكن بان يتم من ..... المزيد

طال انتظاره ... لم يتحقق

إن الاوضاع فى منطقة الشرق الاوسط اصبحت فى حالة من الصعوبة والتعقيد التى تحتاج فيه إلى مثل هذه الاسراع فى اعلان خطة السلام ..... المزيد

ماذا الذى يحدث الان ... استغاثات

إن المنطقة لا تحتمل مزيدا من التوترات السياسية والتى قد تنشأ من جراء ايا من تلك الاحداث التى تتم بشكل فيه اتهامات قد تحدث ن ..... المزيد

القضايا الحيوية على مختلف المستويات

إن ما حدث وما يحدث فى المنطقة العربية من كل هذه الاحداث السياسية الخطيرة والتوترات العسكرية والاختراقات الامنية وخاصة فى ال ..... المزيد

نهبة للتردى..اكثر خطورة

إن التوترات متسمرة وستظل مستمرة طالما لم يحدث اتفاقيات او تهدئة او ايا من انواع السلام بين الاطراف المتنازعة والمتصارعة ورأب ..... المزيد

حساب خسارة

إن هناك موقف غريب من العالم تجاة اسرائيل وكل هذه الفظائع التى ترتكب فى حق الشعب الفلسطينى، ونجد هذا الصمت الرهيب من قبل الم ..... المزيد

المسار الصعب

إن الحرب التى شنتها اسرائيل اثبتت للعالم بان اهل غزة مناضلين مكافحين ومستبسلين من اجل الدفاع عن مدينتهم وان لم يكن لديهم ما ل ..... المزيد

الكثير من المعاناة

إن الرئيس الامريكى الجديد اوباما سوف يواجه تحديات ليست بالسهلة فى قضايا العالم الشائكة، وخاصة قضية الشرق الاوسط الاكثر وعورة ..... المزيد

إنه مستقبل مظلم

هناك الكثير مما يجب عمله تجاة غزة من دعمها فى صمودها، والوقوف معها فى تحديها للاحتلال، وان يكون ما تقوم به اسرائيل فى حق غزة ..... المزيد

في سبيل الحريه

إن ما يحدث فى غزة من اعتداءات اسرائيلية غاشمة يجب بان يتم اخذها فى الاعتبار وان تكون مؤشر للكثير من صفات من يريد بان يعقد الع ..... **المزيد**

المدينة العربية المنكوبة

إن الدمار والخراب يحدث فى غزة من جراء الغارات الجوية الوحشية والغاشمة والمجازر التى تقوم بها اسرائيل تجاة الشعب الفلسطينى، ..... **المزيد**

الاعتداءات على غزة

إن هناك صفحة جديدة فة العلاقات بين البلدين الشقيقين لبنان وسوريا والتى نأمل بان يشملهما الاستقرار والهدوء، بعيدا عن التوترا ..... **المزيد**

تغير الاشخاص

إن الغرب استفاد الكثير من العرب فى حضارته الحديثة الحالية وهذا شئ لا ينكره الغرب نفسه فى ما اخذه عن العلماء العرب والحضارة ..... **المزيد**

الامة العربية والعالم

إن هناك مرحلة خطيرة تمر على كل من الهند وباكستان، وما يمكن بان يؤدى توتر العلاقات إلى تصاعد عسكرى فيه الكثير من المخاوف حيث ..... **المزيد**

هذه الاحداث

الكل يدرك تماما بان العمليات الارهابية التى تحدث فى العالم تؤدى إلى توترات سياسية شديدة تصل إلى حد حدوث ازمات بين الدول التى ..... **المزيد**

فى الاونة الاخيرة

إن هناك موجة جديدة من الارهاب تعصف ببعض الدول وما يحدث وحدث فى الهند هو انذار خطير ليس فقط لأمريكا وانما لكافة دول العالم بال ..... **المزيد**

العصر الذى نعيشه

إن التطورات التقنية فى عالمنا الحضارى المعاصر اليوم تسير بقفزات ليس لها مثيل بحيث انه اصبح هناك من تلك الانجازات التكنولوجيا ..... **المزيد**

ارضاء الكل

إن جوجل تعتبر من الشركات العملاقة فى مجال الكمبيوتر والانترنت، وهى تقدم دائما المزيد من كل تلك الادوات اللازمة لاداء المهام ..... **المزيد**

هناك وضع جديد

إن العالم يمر بأزمة مالية خطيرة وانها لا تشمل دولة او عدة دول وانما هى ازمة عالمية تشمل كل دول العالم، وتحتاج إلى ان يكون هنا ..... **المزيد**

الازمة المالية العالمية

المسار الذى يسير فيه العرب وهو مسار السلام والخيار الاستراتيجى الذى تنتهجه المنطقة من اجل احلال السلام فى حاجة الى دفعة وهذا ..... **المزيد**

افضل نموذج

إن ما حدث فى العالم من ازمة مالية بدأت من امريكا التى تهيمن على العالم قد احدثت الكثير من المخاوف فى الاوساط الاقتصادية، وما ..... **المزيد**

ما يحدث فى العالم اليوم

لقد بدأت القضية الفلسطينية تسير فى ايجاة بعيدا كل البعد عن المسار الحقيقى لها فى تحقيق الاهداف المنشودة من انهاء الصراع الفلس ..... **المزيد**

ازمة خطيرة

لقد بدأت القضية الفلسطينية تسير فى ايجاة بعيدا كل البعد عن المسار الحقيقى لها فى تحقيق الاهداف المنشودة من انهاء الصراع الفل ..... **المزيد**

قرار صائب يتم اتخاذه فورا

إن لبنان لديه الكثير من التوترات السياسية ويحتاج إلى الاستقرار والحفاظ على الامن القومى، وان يعمل على هذا ويسير فى هذا المس ..... **المزيد**

رغم ما قد يظهر خلاف ذلك

هناك لقاءات تتم بين الطرفين الاسرائيلى والفلسطينى، وما يحدث من تطورات على الساحة العربية من سير المفاوضات وان كانت مازالت فى ..... **المزيد**

الشعور بالسعادة

إن هناك تلك التطورات التى تحدث بدون ان يكون هناك تدخل من احد الاطراف المعنية، والتى نجد بان هناك ما يؤدى إلى اعباء وألتزامات ..... **المزيد**

الهدوء والاستقرار

إن هناك الكثير من تلك الاختلافات التى ظهرت فى وجهات النظر بشأن عملية السلام والتى تحتاج إلى ان يكون هناك ما يؤدى إلى وضع الاس ..... **المزيد**

طريق مظلم

إن للعرب تاريخ عريق فى الانظمة السياسية من خلل كل ما مر بها من عصور فيها الزدهار وفيها النتصار وفيها الفشل والهزيمة، ولكن هنا ..... **المزيد**

إلى بر الامان

إن ما وصلت إليه الاوضاع الحالية فى العالم من تخبط وفوضى فى الكثير من المواقع وخاصة الشرق الاوسط يدعو إلى العمل على التغيير فى ..... **المزيد**

ما لا يحمد عقباه

إن إيران فى موقف فى غاية التعقيد من خلال تلك المعادلة الصعبة التى فيها الكثير من الجوانب التى لا يمكن التعامل معها وفقا لما ت ..... المزيد

للأسف الشديد

إن ما تقوم به اسرائيل من توسيع المستوطنات فى الاراضى الفلسطينية يقوض عملية السلام برمتها، وان اسرائيل تدرك ذلك تماما، وانها ا ..... المزيد

الاندماج

إن هناك الكثير من تلكم التقنيات التى اصبحت تؤدى الكثير من المهام بالكثير من التسهيلات التى يمكن بان يستفيد منها مستخدمى الكمب ..... المزيد

بقعة من العالم

إن إيران تقوم بمناورات سياسية فى المجتمع الدولى بمهارة، ولكن قد لا يقع إلا الشاطر كما يقولوا، ويجب عليها الحذر الشديد، والحرص ..... المزيد

بالسهولة والسرعة والتلقائية والحفظ

إن الاهتمام بالصحة فى فترات المواسم خاصة وباقى ايام السنة لهو شئ فى غاية الاهمية، بحيث يتم توافر كل تلك الاجراءات التى من شأن ..... المزيد

ابطالهم وازمانهم

مأساة يعيشها العرب مع قضاياهم والتى تحتاج إلى معالجات ليس بالسهلة او الهينة، وانما هى قضايا من اصعب القضايا واعقدها. ولهذا فا ..... المزيد

الانجازات العصرية

لبنان انتصر على نفسه، من ان يقع فى براثن الفتنة الطائفية والصراع المسلح وكل تلك المؤمرات التى تحاك ضده، من اجل تدمير لبنان ال ..... المزيد

المرحلة الجديدة

إن حياة البشر مليئة الاحداث السارة والسيئة او المفرحة والمحزنة، وما الاكثر المآسى فى حياة الانسان، سواءا اكان مشهورا او مغمور ..... المزيد

حصيلة الانسان من تجارب وخبرة

لقد تم اتفاق الدوحة الذى يعيد الاستقرار إلى لبنان وان يتم انتخاب الرئيس، وان هناك اوضاع جديد افضل للبنان فى المرحلةالمقبلة ..... المزيد

التقدير والثناء

يجب العمل على تنفيذ الاتفاق فورا وان لا يحدث انتكاسة او ايا من تلك الامور التى تعطل التنفيذ او تأخيره، وهنيئا للبنان وللعرب ع ..... المزيد

قهقة ودماء

إن الصدفة بالفعل تعلب دورا كبير فى حياة الانسان وتاريخه وان هناك بالفعل الكثير من الاكتشافات العلمية قد حدثت عن طريق الصدفة، ..... **المزيد**

الواقع المر والاعوام تمر

هل اصبحت منطقة الشرق الاوسط حقل تجارب للغرب يشنوا فيها الحروب وقت شاءوا، والقيام بكل تلك المهام الخطط وما يمكن بان يتوقع من خ ..... **المزيد**

يحقق البطولات

إن قضايا الدول العربية كثيرة ومتشعبة سواءا الان او فيما سبق، من مشاكلها الداخلية التى فيه معاناة شديدة من اجل الحياة الكريم ..... **المزيد**

الجهود اللازمة والمرحلة المقبلة

إن هناك استعداد سورى من اجل السلام، وهو الاجماع العربى من اجل السلام وهناك المبادرة العربية والان المبادرة السورية، ولكن يجب ..... **المزيد**

الاشد تعقيدا

يجب على كافة الاطراف المتنازعة والراعى الامريكى والدول الداعية إلى السلام بان لا تتهاون او تتقاعس عن ما يمكن بان يؤدى إلى تحق ..... **المزيد**

شكل افضل باستمرار

إن باكستان بدأت تعود إلى استقرارها السياسيى والعمل على الممارسة الصحيحة للحياة السياسية التى يجب بان يسودها الحوار والتفاوض و ..... **المزيد**

خلال حقبة او حقبتين

العراق هى القلب النابض للأمة العربية، والذى انهزم فى وسط هذه الامة التى لم تحاول بان تقدم له المعونة والدعم اللازم، وانه فى ح ..... **المزيد**

كافة المجالات والميادين

أستحالة بان يحصل الانسان على كل شئ فى الحياة، فإن كان سعيدا فى عمله فهو تعيسا فى حبه، وان كان لديه مميزات فى جوانب من الحياة، ..... **المزيد**

طريق الحرية

إن من الصعب بان يحدث لقاء بين عباس واولمرت فى المرحلة الراهنة والتى تمر باسوء ظروف على الفلسطينين مما ألحق بهم الاسرائيليين ت ..... **المزيد**

فى غاية الضرورة

إن ما يحدث فى لبنان من تأجيل وتسويف فى تأجيل الانتخابات الرئاسية يجب بان يكون فيه مصلحة لبنان، وان يكون هناك تريث محمود، وليس ..... **المزيد**

أنا والاشجار والعصافير

أنا والاشجار والعصافير اصبحنا نعيش فى درب الحياة الطويل بجهد وكفاح ونطلب الرزق للمعيش اليسير والاسماك فى جدولها مع التيار ت ..... **المزيد**

ما قد يحدث مستقبلا

إن ما يحدث فى لبنان قد يكون ركيزة للمستقبل والذى يكون فيه النظام الذى يستوعب التطورات التى تحدث على الساحة، وان يكون هناك صمو ..... **المزيد**

عصر المسافات

إنها المسافات ... عصر المسافات فى المكان والزمان والمستويات والافكار والعلاقات والاراء والانجازات، مسافات شاسعة بين الناس، وه ..... **المزيد**

هازم ومهزوم

إن لبنان فى خطر، ويجب بان لا تترك لبنان تنجرف نحو الهاوية التى يسير نحوها، والكل يراها اللبنانين والعرب والعالم، ولا احد يستط ..... **المزيد**

عطاء الانسان وابداعه

إن على لبنان بان يدرك الوضع الراهن المتدهور فى اوضاعه السياسية الداخلية، والتى وصلت إلى هذه الازمة السياسية التى جعلته بدون ..... **المزيد**

تصريحات المسئولين

إن ما يحدث فى غزة هو من الاحداث الخطيرة التى وصلت إليها الامور، وان دلت على شئ فإنها تدل على مدى تدهور المسار السلمى الذى ي ..... **المزيد**

العديد من الجوانب

حرية الرأى مكفولة للجميع، ولكن يجب بان لا تتعدى هذه الحرية حرية الاخرين، وان يكون هناك احترام وعدم اسفاف او ابتزال او السخر ..... **المزيد**

عصرنا هذا الذى نعيشه

شئ جيد بان تحضر لبنان المؤتمر الخاص بوزراء الخارجية العرب، ولكن كان يجب بان يكون هناك ايضا انتهاء للأزمة التى التى تمر بها ..... **المزيد**

باسرع وقت قدر المستطاع

قد يكون هناك مصداقية فى تصريحات اردوغان حول العراق، ولكن ما يزعج الاتراك هم الاكراد الذين لهم قوة سياسية فى تركيا، وتسبب ..... **المزيد**

ضعف التضامن العربى

إن مثل هذه المبادرات الايجابية التى تتم على مثل هذه المستويات من الشخصيات العاليمة هى دفعة نحو الامام فى سبيل دعم عملية السلا ..... **المزيد**

من اجل الرخاء والتقدم والرفاهية

يجب بان تدرك اسرائيل الاوضاع الخطيرة فى الاراضى الفلسطينية،وان لا تحمل احد المسئولية إلا نفسها، فيما تقوم به من كل تلك الممار ..... المزيد

الاسلوب الامثل فى التعامل

إن ما وصلت إليه الاوضاع الراهنة فى الملف الايرانى النووى وتخلى امريكا مبدئيا عن شن هجوم عسكرى ضد ايران هو انتصار ايرانى ف ..... المزيد

وضوح فى الرؤية

إن ما يحدث فى باكستان من هذا الصراع السياسى الشديد الوطأة ليس وليد الظروف الحالية، وإنما هو صراع ممتد من امد طويل، وان الممار ..... المزيد

حالات الرقى والازدهار

إن التطورات الحالية فى الازمة السودانية ومحاولة احتواء والسيطرة على الاوضاع فى اقليم دارفور تحتاج إلى الكثير من الدعم الدولى ..... المزيد

الاتجاة الصعب والوعر

إن الرئيس الفلسطينى عباس يسير فى الاتجاة الصعب والوعر والذى إن لم يكن رفضه من قبله لأية اسباب فإنه لم يستطيع بان يخوض فى هذا ..... المزيد

المرحلة القادمة من التاريخ

إن اهم شئ يهم اسرائيل هو امنها القومى، والتفوق العسكرى على كافة الدول العربية بما فيهم ايران، وهذا شئ تحافظ عليه وهو بانلسب ..... المزيد

الاعتبارات التى توضع فى الحسبان

لبنان فى معاناة سياسية بدأت تتضح معالمها على اعلى المستويات السياسية من القمة حيث لم يعد هناك رئيس لبنانى ينتخب ويتفق عليه، م ..... المزيد

البحث عن الافضل

إن مثل هذه المؤتمرات التى تعقد على مثل هذه المستويات يجب ان يكون فيها الاهتمام كبيرا حيث انها لا تتكرر إلا نادرا، ويكون فيها ..... المزيد

الحل الشامل والعادل

لقد كانت مفاجأة للعالم اجمع وليس لعالم العربى فقط، حين اعلن السادات ذهابه إلى اسرائيل، وحين ذهب إلى اسرائيل فهو بذلك اول زعيم ..... المزيد

رغم كل التعقيدات والصعوبات

يجب العمل على احتواء مثل هذه المشكلات والقضايا العالقة بكل ما يخص الدول العربية، وان تكون الاو فى الاطار العربى ممثلا فى الجا ..... المزيد

التضحيات المؤلمة

هل من الممكن الوصول إلى سلام بين اسرائيل والفلسطينين خاصة والذى تختلف قضيتهم عن باقى دول المواجهة، من حيث ما تقوم به اسرائيل ..... المزيد

تصرف بحكمة وعقلانية

إن الصراع فى لبنان على اشده فى المرحلة الحالية والتى تشهد انتخابات الرئاسة والتى قد تحتاج فيها إلى رئيس يتفق عليه جميع الاطرا ..... المزيد

المشاركات بين كافة الاطراف

مؤتمر الخريف هو الذى ينتظره الجميع من اجل الوصول إلى احلال السلام فى المنطقة والخروج بتلك النتائج الايجابية التى تبشر بالخير. ..... المزيد

بحث قضايا الامة العربية

يجب على الجامعة العربية بان تسرع فى بحث قضايا الامة العربية الحيوية وبحث ومناقشة كل تلك القضايا كما يجب عليه بان يتم ويكون فى ..... المزيد

فترة من تاريخ الامة

إننا نجد بان امريكا تتدخل فى شئون المنطقة والتى قد يكون لها دور من اجل الحفاظ على مصالحها ولكن السئوال لما امريكا فقط هى التى ..... المزيد

افضل المستويات الممكنة

إن الكاتب مثل الاخرين، فهو لديه حرفة يقوم بها فى الحياة، وما يتركه من كتابات مثل باقى الحرفيين النجار والحداد والبناء والرسام ..... المزيد

المعاناة التى تعيشها الشعوب العربية

نعم لقد خذلت الامم المتحدةالشعب الفلسطينى والعالم كله خذل الشعب الفلسطينى، وقد يكون هناك العديد من الاسباب لذلك، والذى قد ..... المزيد

تميز فى سياسيتها

لقد بدأ القلق يساور روسيا بشأن النوايا الامريكية والتى يحاول بان يكون لها الدرع الدفاعى الصاروخى والتى يهدد العمق الروسى، و ..... المزيد

نقطة تحول

إن سوريا هى دولة مواجهة مع اسرائيل، وهذا منذ حرب الستينات، والتى انهزمت فيها الجيوش العربية، وإن سوريا خاضت حرب اكتوبر، ومازا ..... المزيد

اللبيب بالاشارة يفهم

إننا نجد بان هناك موقف جديد تنتهجه اروبا فى القيام بمعاقبة ايران،وان هناك اوضاع هى فى غاية الخطورة على المنطقة، والتى من شا ..... المزيد

نبض الامة العربية

العراق هو نبض الامة العربية والذى عانى الكثير على مر العصور، فهو بوابة العرب، وهو البلد الذى يطمع فيه اولا الاستعمار لما فيه ..... **المزيد**

التطورات العلمية الحديثة

الحياة اليوم أصبحت تعج بالكثير من الأعمال، ولقد ظهر الكثير من المتغيرات فى صور الحياة من نتاج التطورات الحديثة والمستمرة والم ..... **المزيد**

وصلت إلى طريق مسدود

شئ جميل بان نجد هذا التميز فى مسلسلات رمضانية استطاعت بان تصل إلى شهرة عربية تتفاعل مع الاحداث المحلية والعالمية، وفى مجتمع ..... **المزيد**

فتنة قاتله مدمرة مهلكة

هل ستكون الحرب القادمة فاصلة فى تحديد الشكل الجديد للمنطقة وما يمكن بان يتبلور عنه من نتائج على المدى القريب والبعيد. وكيف ..... **المزيد**

الدرجات الأعلى

إنها اللحظات قد يحدث من تلك الأمور التى قد نجد بانها من ضمن تلك الأنقاط الضرورية فى حياتنا من حيث ما يمكن القيام به من كل تل ..... **المزيد**

قضايا الشرق الاوسط

كلنا يعلم بان العرب والمسلمين فى حجم الغرب حضاريا وعسكريا، وإنما قد لدينا الكثير مما يفتقده الغرب من دين هو رحمة للأنساني ..... **المزيد**

واحة الديمقراطية

إن العراق هو مثل كل الدول العربية ملئ بالتعقيدات الكثيرة، والقضايا الداخلية الصعبة، وإن لم يكن اكثر من منطلق الموقع الاسترا ..... **المزيد**

من شخص إلى شخص

الشخصية الفردية تختلف طباع الأنسان من شخص إلى شخص فى العديد من الأشكال والتصرفات والأراء والأفكار والمتطلبات والأولويات، فهن ..... **المزيد**

عبء ثقيل؟ ... نسلك أية طريق

وضعى المنحوس لمن أشكوا وضعى المنحوس، ومنه الخلاص ميئوس، وأصبحت بوضع مثل المهووس بعد أن جاء مخلص النفوس، بفكر فيه العمل الصا ..... **المزيد**

ابتهال إلى الله

رب دعائنا والرجاء شديد، هل صعد إليك، ده أحنا يا ربى فى حاجه إليك الكل تركنا وتخلنا عنا، وأحنا فى طريقنا ودنيانا والهم والغم ..... **المزيد**

وهو مبسوط ..والنجاح سهل

حسابات ... توقعات ... صحيحة أم خاطئة!! ذهبت إلى المحلات لتجارية، واشتريت احتياجات ضرورية، ورجعت أشياء علشان الحسابات مش كافي ..... **المزيد**

التحليلات السياسية كثيرة وما اكثرالكتب

سوف يكون هناك انعكاسات خطيرة فى احداث نهر البارد التى تمر بها لبنان ومرت بها مرحلة هى الاسواء على الطلاق منذ ان انتهت الح ..... **المزيد**

الاستقرار ولو نسبيا

ما اكثر الكتب التى فيها الكثير من محاربة الدين، والذى فيه الشك فى الكثير من المعتقدات والثوابت لدى الناس. ولكن فى نفس الوقت ..... **المزيد**

الفتنة فى كل الدول العربية

هناك محاول لبث الفتنة فى كل الدول العربية، من خلال احداث البلبة السياسية، والتوترات التى تهز الدول العربية والاسلامية. إنها ..... **المزيد**

ازمة خطيرة فى العلاقات ـ كارثة عربية

عادة ما تمر على الانسان مراحل قد تكون فى غاية الحرج والحساسية تجاة كل شئ حوله، وسواء كانت من تلك المهام التى يمكن بان يقوم بت ..... **المزيد**

الصالح العربى ... رغم كل الادعاءات

إن الكاتب هو مثل البائع او التاجر او ايا ممن يعمل فى الاسواق، وهنا نجد بان يتعرض لكل تلك المستويات الاجتماعية والفكرية من ا ..... **المزيد**

التعبير عن المحبة

إنه الانسان الذى اخترع التصفيق والهتافات والصراخ الدال على الاعجاب، إنه التعبير عن المحبة والتقدير والشكر وان هذا هو المطلوب ..... **المزيد**

فى غاية الخطورة

إن النسيان شئ طبيعى فى حياة ا لانسان، والناس والانسان والنسيان جدا متشابه، وهذا قد يكون نعمة ونقمة فى الوقت نفسه. فهناك الق ..... **المزيد**

البادر نكبة

إن القوات الامريكية تعانى فى العراق اشد المعاناة، وهذا شئ طبيعى بان تتهم كل دول الجوار بانها تساعد على المزيد من الاضطرابات ا ..... **المزيد**

المجموعات التجارية والصناعية

هناك الكثير من الأعتبارات يجب أن توضع فى الأعتبار عند القيام بمثل تلك الأعمال التى قد يكون فيها المجازفة والمخاطر، وهنا يجب أ ..... **المزيد**

هذا ايضا ليس فى الامكان

هناك الكثير مما يريده الشارع العربى، والذى فقد الفرصة فى ان يتحقق له شئ على الصعيد السياسى، وما قد اصبح من المستحيل ارضاءه ..... **المزيد**

مجهول يترقبه العقلاء

إن واقع الامة العربية مرير، ووإنه للأسف الشديد يرتبط ارتباطا وثيقا بالحليف الامريكى المحبوب من الحكام والمفروض من الشعوب، و ..... **المزيد**

سبب بلاءها ومصائبها

هناك فوضى عالمية بدون شك فى ذلك، وما يحدث من انقسامات فى القيادات للحكومات فى بعض الدول، إنما دليل على ان هناك خللا ما، يجب ..... **المزيد**

انهار فى دنيا الأفكار

اشراق انهار فى دنيا الأفكار ... اراء الجيد والصواب، أرزاق فى زقاق طريقنا منهار، شمسنا والأشجار، نماء فى أفتخار، الأفكار والآر ..... **المزيد**

الأوضاع المتردية إلى ماذا تقودنا

نيران الشرق الأوسط ... كيف نطفأها أو نتجنبها.. يجب أن لا نستهون بصغائر الأمور، فإن أكبر الكوارث أو النيران من مستصغر الشرر. ..... **المزيد**

مرحلة توتر خطيرة فى الشرق الأوسط

إننا بلاشك فى مرحلة توتر خطيرة فى الشرق الأوسط، وما يحدث من متغيرات وتطورات على الساحة شئ ليس وليد المصادفة، وإنما هى مخططا ..... **المزيد**

الدولة العبرية والدولة الفلسطينية

هل من الممكن.. للدولة العبرية بأن تترك دولة فلسطينية تعيش حرة مستقلة، جنبا إلى جنب. يبدو ما هو ممكن بأنه مستحيل. إنهم لا يريد ..... **المزيد**

مشكلة درافور... وقرارات مجلس الأمن

السودان بلد الخيرات .. ماذا حل بها، إنها الدولة التى تستطيع بأن تغذى ليس فقط دول العالم العربى بل والأسلامى كذلك من كل ما بها ..... **المزيد**

امبراطوريتها على الاسلام

إن تركيا دولة قامت امبراطوريتها على الاسلام، والذى وصل بها إلى ما وصلت إليها من تقدم وحضارة. نعم قد يكون هناك حاةل من الركو ..... **المزيد**

السياسات التسويقية والأستراتيجيات

ماذا يكون عليه الوضع إذا كان هناك الكثير من الأنتاج الذى لا يجد له التصريف المناسب، وقد يكون هذا بسبب المناقشات الشديدة فى ال ..... **المزيد**

واقع الامة العربية مرير

إن واقع الامة العربية مرير، ووإنه للأسف الشديد يرتبط ارتباطا وثيقا بالحليف الامريكى المحبوب من الحكام والمفروض من الشعوب، وهذ ..... **المزيد**

ما أفظع الحياة مع الحرب الاهلية

ما أفظع الحياة فى بلاد بها الحرب الاهلية التى تطحن الشعوب وبدلا من ان تنهض بها، تقهقر بها إلا الخلف، حيث لا شئ ينفع او يفيد، ..... **المزيد**

الأخطاء البشرية

أنه شئ مؤكد وواضح ومعلوم ومعروف بأن الكل يخطئ، وليس هناك من هو معصوم، غير الأنبياء ومن رحم الله، وأنه للذلك نجد بأن هناك من ي ..... **المزيد**

من حال إلى حال

وأنتقلنا من حال إلى حال، وقلنا ها يحقق المحال، بعمل فى طريق أضئ بعد ظلام وأنتقلنا من مكان إلى مكان، وبرأى به صياح ونباح، وما ..... **المزيد**

الأساليب البالية الصارمة فى معالجةالقضايا المختفلة

الأساليب البالية الصارمة فى معالجةالقضايا المختفلة أنه بدون شك سوف يكون هناك من تلك النظم التى يجب أن تتبع من أجل أن يتم الق ..... **المزيد**

الأندماج فى الأعمال والأنجازات

يجب أن يكون هناك تفكير منطقى وعقلانى فى كل ما يتم القيام به من مهام تستوجب البحث عن أهم تلك المتطلبات والأحتياجات ذات الأولوي ..... **المزيد**

هذا هو الوضع والحال

إنها الأشياء التى تحدث من حولنا، من كل تلك المساوئ والسلبيات ونقاط الضعف، والتى تتواجد وبكثرة فى المجتمع، فإذا تحدثت مع أحد ع ..... **المزيد**

إن الشعوب تعيش على حضارتها

إن التطورات الاخيرة هى جديدة على المنطقة، وما يحدث ما هو إلا نتاج الكثير من تلك الخلفيات التى تبلورت فى المرحلة الاخيرة، والت ..... **المزيد**

فترة زحام ... إلقاء الأضواء

بشر فى كل مكان.... يملئوا المكان... إنه الزحام الشديد...رجال ونساء وأطفال من كل المستويات والجنسيات والأعمار...أحاديث تميزها ولا ..... **المزيد**

جيل اليوم وجيل الامس

جيل وجيل (جيل اليوم وجيل الامس) يا ولد !!! بلاش الشغل بتاعك اللى بتعملوا علينا، احنا مش صغار نصدق كل اللى بتقوله لنا، ... ول ..... **المزيد**

المنافسات الشريفة والغير شريفة

المنافسات الشريفة والغير شريفة (السمعة والثقة، والغش والخداع) قد يكون هناك من تلك المشروعات الجديدة والتى قد تنشأ وتنمو أع ..... المزيد

أتركوه ... فى الوهم يعيش

أتركوه فى الوهم يعيش أتركوه يظن الوحش حيوان أليف معاه هايسير ويعيش أتركوه يظن السم بلسم للشفاء وللجراح ها يطيب أتركوه فى خ ..... المزيد

السيادة والأنظمة والذوق العام

هل يحق لمن لديه السيادة الحق فى خرق القوانين والتشريعات التى تحكم المنطقة التى تخضع تحت حكمه؟، ما هى تلك المفاهيم التى تقوم ب ..... المزيد

أنها الطبائع البشرية

العلاقات البشرية صعبة وفيها الكثير من تلك المواصفات المتغيرة، والتى تختلف من فرد إلى أخر، ونجد بأن الجميع لديهم ما هو أيجابى، ..... المزيد

السيطرة على الأوضاع بالأساليب المناسبة

أنه لابد من العمل على اتخاذ الاحتياطات والتدابير المناسبة والملائمة لما ينبغى له بأن يكون له أهميته فى القيام بكل ما قد يحتاج ..... المزيد

آلو ...آلو............. الكرة الأرضية

طلب عالمي آلو ...آلو............. الكرة الأرضية مكالمة محلية .. لا إنها مكالمة دولية .... أنه يستقبلها فى أية مكان فى منزله أو فى عم ..... المزيد

اللهم هيأ لنا من أمرنا رشدا

أنه الأسلوب المتبع فى الإدارة من حيث محاولة أستفزاز مشاعر الموظفين مما قد يحد من تصرفاتهم والتى قد تكون متعلقة بالعمل والإسرة ..... المزيد

الاسرار السياسية .. المحيط إلى الخليج

إننا نجد بان امريكا اصبحت تتخبط فى العراق، ولا تدرى اتستمر أم ترحل بقواتها، ولكنها ستظل مهيمنة على القيادة العراقية، وهذا اام ..... المزيد

الأوقات المناسبة، والقرارت الملائمة والمستجدات العادية

القيام بمعرفة ما ينبغى له بأن يكون وفقاً لنظام محدد، وإتخاذ لم، والتى من خلالها سيتم الإلتزام بكل تلك المواصفات القياسية والت ..... المزيد

الأساليب الصحيحة والبديلة لمعالجة المشكلات

أنه من الضرورى القيام ببحث كل تلك الأسباب التى قد أدت إلى حدوث مثل تلك المشكلة فى أياً من تلك المجالات التى قد نجد بأن هناك م ..... المزيد

نقاط سريعة مضيئة

إنها تلك الأحداث التى نمر بها والتى يكون فهيا الكثير من تلك النقاط التى تحتاج إلى بحث ودراسة، والخروج بتلك النتائج التى نأمل ..... **المزيد**

ما آلت إليه الأوضاع

هل نترك الدموع تتحجر فى أعيننا، من قسوة هذا الزمان، أننا نريد أن نبكى مما قد حدث لنا من كل تلكم الأوضاع القاسية، والتى أصبحنا ..... **المزيد**

ما أكثر هذا الكم الهائل

أنها تلك المنتجات التى أصبحت تنتج بهذا الكم الهائل وبكل تلك التشكلية العجيبة الغربية التى أصبحنا نراها، وكانها تريد بأن تغرقن ..... **المزيد**

المأساة الفلسطينى فى الساحة الدولية

إن الدور الفلسطينى فى الساحة الدولية له دوره البارز حيث القضية التى يعانى منها الشعب الفلسطينى منذ اكثر من نصف قرن. وما يحدث ..... **المزيد**

ممنوع الانفجار

إن العالم اليوم فى حاجة إلى هذه اليافطة التى هى فى غاية الاهمية بالنسبة له، والتى هى اليافطة المفقودة حتى الان من عالمنا، وال ..... **المزيد**

الاتفاق فى القيادة شيئا جوهريا

نريد بان يكون الاتفاق فى القيادة شيئا جوهريا حيث انه من شأنه بان تتفق الاراء على القيام بما هو مناسب للشعب الفلسطينى. وكلنا ي ..... **المزيد**

اليوم والأمس ...وغدا

أنها تلك المسئوليات التى لم تكن على البال، وما قد تم توقعه لم يحدث،و أنما قد مررنا بتلك الأحداث المختلفة،و الحلات التى ظهرت ب ..... **المزيد**

نقاط قريبة ... نقاط مستقبلية

أنها تلك الذكريات التى نحاول بأن نضعها فى الأعتبار. أيام الأزمات السياسية والإقتصادية والصحية. أنها الظروف الجوية البرد القار ..... **المزيد**

إنها علاقات وروابط عجيبة

إنها بالفعل تلك الروابط العجيبة التى تحدث بين البشر فيما بينهم، ونجد بأننا قد أصبحنا فى ذلك الوضع الذى نحاول فيه التعامل مع ا ..... **المزيد**

ليس أمامك إلا...

إنه لم يعد هناك خيارات أو فرص حتى يمكن بأن يستغلها الأنسان أو يسير فى الطريق الذى يريد بأن يختاره، أنه قد أصبح فى هذا المأزق ..... **المزيد**

ماضى ... حكمتك ... سبحانك

الطفولة ومراحلها المختلفة، وكل تلك المسارات الإجبارية والخيارات والأفراح الأحزان. صوان العزاء، والرمل الأصفر والأنوار، والزغا ..... المزيد

المعمعة

انها الضوضاء التى تصيبنا بالكثير من تلك الأمراض، والقلق التى أستشرى وأصبحنا نعانى الكثير مما نحاول بأن نجعله فى بعد عنا، وأن ..... المزيد

المحاولات اليائسة

(إنها الأفكار الشاسعة) إنه قلق متوتر ..أصيب بحالة غريبة من الهلوسة.. وها هو قد ذهب فكره بعيدا جدا عن الواقع.. أنه يسرح ولا ..... المزيد

امكانيات هائلة وقدرات جبارة

إن دولة الظلم ساعة ودولة الحق إلى قيام الساعة. قد تأتى سياسات قمية فى أية دولة فى العالم، ولا تسمح بحرية الرأى، ولكن دائما نر ..... المزيد

تعديل المسار للأفضل أم للأسوء

إن المعارضة قد تكون فى بعض الاحيان موفقة فى تعديل المسار، والذى قد نجد باننا لدينا اراء لا نتوقع بان هناك لها من بديل، ولكن ..... المزيد

اسرار السياسة الدولية

أكثر اسرار السياسة الدولية التى تدور على الساحة العالمية، والتى تتأثر بها منطقة الشرق الاوسط، والذى يحدث فيه من جراء كل ذلك م ..... المزيد

حدث ما لم يتوقع

إن القضية الفلسطينية وصلت فيما يبدو إلى المرحلة النهائية التى ليس فيها حل يرضى ايا من الاطراف. وبهذا نصل إلى التساؤل الذى يمك ..... المزيد

الاعلام المؤثر فى الاحداث

إنه الاعلام الذى له دوره الكبير والمؤثر فى ما يحدث فى العالم بلا شك، حيث ان هناك اعلام ينقل الوقائع والاحداث المجردة ويترك لل ..... المزيد

الخطوة التالية

لقد اصبح العالم فى حالة من الفوضى لم يسبق لها مثيل، ومازلنا نتخبط فى كل التحليلات والمسببات التى تؤدى إلى حدوث مثل هذه الافع ..... المزيد

عصرنا ... وعصر مضى

حقائق مثل الخيال لم يعد فى الامكان ... هذا الذى تحلم به... أنك تفكر فى شئ عظيم... هو فوق طاقة الناس... وخاصة حين يكون هناك نقص فى ..... المزيد

سيادة النائب (سعادة الوزير)

وقد بدأت اساريره تنفرج، بعدان كان شديد الصرامه، ووجه جامد التعابير، بل الذى قد يكون فيه من ملامح القسوة والشدة والخشونة، أيضا ..... **المزيد**

كل ما يخطر على بال

إنه يسير فى طريقه الملئ بالمطبات والارشادات والتعلميات ولكنه لا يدرى إلى أين سيصل، أنه يسير كما يسير الاخرين، وما أكثر تلك ال ..... **المزيد**

ناطحة سحاب

إنه الآن فى مكتبه العصرى الفاخر، باعلى مبنى تجارى واداري أي انه أعلى وافخم برج فى المدينة، بل فى المنطقة كلها. وأنه يعتبر م ..... **المزيد**

من مساوئ الحضارة الحديثة

إن الامة العربية وحتى العالم لا يجب بان يتدخل فى الشئون الداخلية الفلسطينية، فهو شعب مثل باقى شعوب العالم، ولكنه للأسف تحت ال ..... **المزيد**

دوامة الحياة

حسيب : أين أنت الآن؟ طاهر : أنا فى المحل الفلانى ... حسيب : وبتعمل آيه؟ طاهر : بشتغل معاهم؟ أصبحت موظف علاقات العملاء! حسيب ..... **المزيد**

هل فهمت؟؟؟؟؟

سامح : الواحد بيعمل أيه؟ أنا عرفت ليه الناس فى زهق وطفش، الواحد جالس يدور على حاجة كويسة يعملها، ويستفيد ويفيد. الواحد أتعلم ..... **المزيد**

صرافة وبشر

صرافة وبشر إنه من تلك المواقع ا لعديدة المنتشرة فى هذا المكان من وسط المدينة والذى يمتلئ بالأضواء والضوضاء التى تملاء ه ..... **المزيد**

لقد اشتد الوهن بالامة العربية

وهل وصل العرب إلا إلى هذا المتسوى من الدنى فى العلاقات الخارجية مع العالم، واستهتار القوى الكبرى امريكا واروبا وحتى المنظمات ..... **المزيد**

المجتمع الدولى والعرب

إن العرب ليس لديهم صبر، وإن كانوا يجبروا عليه، وهو صبر إجبار وليس صبر اختيار، وهناك فرق كبير بينهما. ولكننا نجد بأن التخطيط ا ..... **المزيد**

إلى متى سيظل كفاحك

فلسطين إلى متى سيظل كفاحك، وآلامك هى آلالام المتسمرة والمتواصلة فى الامة العربية، ولا أحد يعرف كيف يداوى جروحك. إنك قلبنا ..... **المزيد**

استعداد للتفاوض ...العواقب غير معروفة

كل العرب يتمنوا بأن تكون هذه الحكومة الفلسطينية هى الحكومة التى تخرج بفلسطين من المأزق التى هى فيه. وأن تلاقى القبول من المجت ..... **المزيد**

شعوب الغرب واكاذيب زعمائهم

إن الدول العربية فى مأساة وأصعبها فلسطين، وتأتى بعدها العراق ثم لبنان، ثم السودان، وباقى الدول لديها أيضا مشكلات تحتاج إل ..... **المزيد**

ماذا يريد العرب، وماذا تريد الدول الكبرى

هناك الشخصيات العظيمة فى عالمنا العربى والمنطقةوالذين خدموا الامة وضحوا من اجلها، وتركوا اعمالا عظيمة تخلد ذكراهم. ولبلادهم ق ..... **المزيد**

السكة اللى فيها ماشين

زمن أمبارح ... وزمن النهارده هيه هيه الشمس والنهار والليل.... والحر والبرد .. والفرح والحزن ... واللى بيجى واللى بيفارق.. وا ..... **المزيد**

المنطقة تحت نيران المؤمرات

لقد انهارت لبنان وفى طريقها نحو الهاوية، مثل ما حدث لباقى الدول العربية، مثل فلسطين والعراق. وهذا يثبت بأن المنطقة بكل ان ..... **المزيد**

هذا قدر الامة العربية والاسلامية

إنما يخشى الله من عباده العلماء. هناك الكثير من الاسرار فى الانسان، والاعجاز العلمى والكونى الذى نطلع عليه كل وقت وحين، يحي ..... **المزيد**

معالجة الاوضاع المتوترة اقليميا وعالميا

لم يعد هناك حربا باردة، ومن يتمنى بأن تعود أجواء الحرب الباردة مرة أخرى، وأن يعيد التاريخ نفسه، فهو مثل كل من يحلم بعودة الما ..... **المزيد**

حين تمتزج العاطفة بالسياسة

الشعوب العربية فى مأساة ما بعدها مأساة، ولا يوجد طريق للخلاص من كل تلك المعاناة السياسية والاقتصادية وما يورد موارد الهلا ..... **المزيد**

أنه الصلح المنتظر، التعامل الصحيح مع القضية

إنه الصلح المنتظر من زمان، والذى ما كان له أن يظهر إلى الوجود، ولكنها مشيئة الله، ولا نغفل مؤمرات العدو، التى ليست بشئ جديد ..... **المزيد**

القمة العربية حيث الثلوج، هل ستشعر بالنيران المستعرة فى الوسط والقاع

أليس من بداهيات الامور حين يكون هناك اجتماعات للقمة العربية بأن يتم التعرف على كافة ملابساتها، وحين يحدث نوعا من الالغاء او ا ..... **المزيد**

بداية يوم جديد

بداية يوم جديد .... شرق أوسط بدمار شديد ما أجمل هذا الصباح المشرق فى الربيع أزهار حمراء بديعة وطير يغرد ولكن ماذا ه ..... **المزيد**

أصبحوا أثنين ... وهناك أكثر

إنه يستلم تلك الرسالة من صديق عزيز عليه فى مدينة أخرى، وانهم قد عاشوا سويا منذ الصغر فى مكان واحد، وفرقت بينهم الأيام، ومشاغل ..... **المزيد**

الأسس الصحيحة فى المعاملات المختلفة

سوف نجد بأن هناك الكثير من تلك الطرق والأساليب المختلفة فى التعامل مع مختلف تلك الجوانب التى قد نجد بأننا قد تطرقنا إليها، من ..... **المزيد**

كابوس

انه يسمع أزيز الطائرات الحربية التى تخترق الأجواء بسرعتها الفائقة، وصوتها المزعج، وصوت بعضا من تلكم القذائف المدمرة التى تلقى ..... **المزيد**

نجم وترحيب

إنه قد أصبح لا يطيق ل هذا الأهتمام والأحتفاء به من الجمهور الذى يندفع ويتزاحم على لقاءه ومشاهدته عن قرب، ومحاولة أخذ بعض الأو ..... **المزيد**

لوحــة فنـان

ماهذا الجمال، فى لوحة صنعها إنسان، من طبيعة مدن وبلدان، أو خيال فى الأذهان إنها يد الإنسان، التى تبرع فى بعض الأحيان، لتظهر ..... **المزيد**

وجدان والالام ... وأمجاد زمان

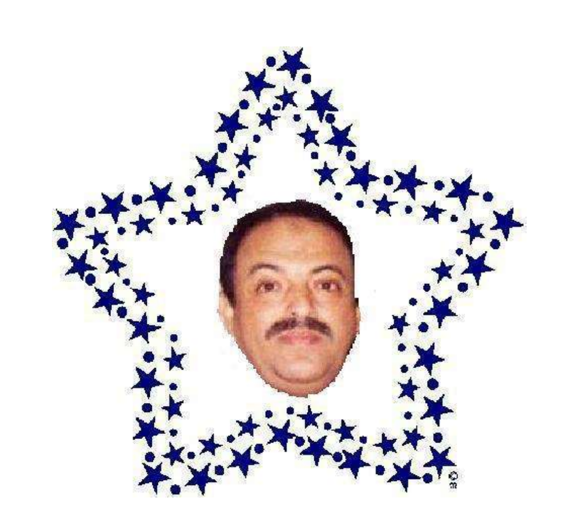
إنها الأحلام التى هى حبيسة الجدران، إنها الأوهام التى هى بين الهزل وامر هام إنها النعمة التى أنقلبت نقمة، من وضع غيريب فيه ه ..... **المزيد**

عش كما تريد

هل تريد المزيد أم إن هناك شئ جديد أنتهى عصر الحساب والهندسة والفكر المنير وهل بالجبر يمكن بأن نعيش هل أنتهى عصر الصراع و ..... **المزيد**



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INFORMATION SYSTEMS
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for
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Volume one, two & three
(1, 2 & 3)
Written by Hashim I. Filali
فكر وأدب وعلم
NEWSLETTERS AND NEWS ARTICLES
Prepared by Hashim Ibrahim
1999G

Editorial

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: SR900 (U.S. $241)
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M. KAHIL

going on to get Pakistan to sign the ... impending financial collapse ...

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Riyadh

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If they could find way to settle their disputes amicably, they would be able to use their resources to give their poor people a better life. They have the potential to become strong economies with much to contribute to the stability of the world. If a move is not made in that direction, they will become a threat to the world with the possibility of a war breaking out any time between them.

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it never has done before — partly because of the admission of Myanmar.

At a two-day meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers which ended on Saturday, Thailand and the Philippines pushed for a fuller discussion of controversial issues, from democracy to the environment. "Like it or not, the issues of democracy and human rights are those that we have to increasingly deal with in our engagement with the outside world," Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan told the conference. "How are we going to put ourselves on the offensive rather than always be on the receiving end?" he asked.

One reason why ASEAN is on the receiving end over human rights is the presence in the organization of Myanmar, whose military rulers crushed a ...velopment Council (SPDC), and the pro-democracy movement led by Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi.

"I know that many in ASEAN are anxious to see a focus on Burma because they know that the problems in Burma are causing difficulties for ASEAN as a whole, for example in the context of ASEAN's dialogue with the European Union," Downer said. "That is constrained, inhibited by the problems in Burma because of the European Union's stand against Burma."

Thailand's Surin delighted human rights campaigners in Asia with his stance on democracy. "ASEAN is in danger of turning into a club of fossilized golf players if it ignores Dr. Surin's comments," said a pressure group called the Alternative ASEAN ... elections are deemed to be fair. This policy is a departure from tradition, since ASEAN has not normally linked membership with free elections. Cambodia was originally due to enter ASEAN last year, but ASEAN put the admission on hold after strongman Hun Sen ousted First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh in a bloody coup.

In Manila, Thailand won agreement in ASEAN that henceforth there would be "enhanced interaction" on big issues with transboundary implications, though the association's hallowed principle of non-interference in members' internal affairs would still operate. Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore spoke out strongly against the Thai proposals for so-called "flexible engagement" and analysts said that ...donesia as countries which would find the new approach difficult. But he said "enhanced interaction" was a vague phrase allowing differences of interpretation. "You can play with the phrase actually," he said.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. A year of crisis in Asia, with currencies crashing and unemployment soaring, has supplied the broad backdrop to the debate on openness in ASEAN. Many seem to feel that avoiding touchy issues is a luxury ASEAN countries can no longer afford.

"The times are too critical to waste time and spare feelings," columnist Beth Day Romulo wrote in a commentary on the debate in the Manila Bulletin daily. (R)

into backing away from reform.

That view is being increasingly pressed by big business and financial markets — key backers of the ...servatives. "The Telstra issue ad... the list of earlier policy ... ness ..which if continued could fu... sidetrack the reform agenda," Citi... economists said. While Costello denied he intended any imme... leadership challenge, his comm... added to a pile of evidence that m... bers of the government are unha... with Howard's management.

Letters to the Editor

Post-mortem on Ronaldo

Even though it is nearly two weeks since the World Cup final, the debate on why it ended the way it did is still going on.

France were the worthy winners of the cup. They were unbeaten and had conceded only two goals while Brazil had been beaten by Norway before losing to France in the final and had conceded 10 goals in all.

Instead of congratulating France on their convincing 3-0 victory, with only 10 men playing in the second half, an unending and meaningless post-mortem on Ronaldo is occupying meters of newspaper columns. The better team has won, and let's salute its great performance and leave Ronaldo to recover from the scar of the cup final.

S.H. Moulana
Riyadh

American names

Mr. Eddie Santos (July 24) is correct in saying that the Americans did not name their country after a British king. That may be because the Americans did not name their country at all. The name America was given to the newly discovered land long before the British colonized what is now the United States of America.

America was in fact named after an Italian, a navigator named Amerigo Vespucci. On the other hand, the 'Americans' i.e. the colonists, did name the places they lived in after British monarchs and notables. For example, Virginia is named for Queen Elizabeth I, Carolina for King Charles, Georgia for King George, Pennsylvania for William Penn, New York for the Duke of York, Pittsburgh for Pitt a British prime minister, Delaware for Lord Delaware etc., etc. The difference is of course that these names were British and were given by people who, though living in the colonies, were also British. This is not the case with Filipinos and the Philippines.

Boniface Rodriquez
Abqaiq

Lessons in unity

Arab nations and peoples have much to learn from the experience of the European Union.

The countries of Europe now have a common and corporate market, joint defense, common policies and a common strategy. A common currency, euro, is about to be introduced. They achieved all this in spite of the fact that they have different languages and a history of wars and enmity. Their peoples are deeply antipathetic to one other. The only shared thing is that they are geographically linked.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: SR900 (U.S. $241)
AIRMAIL POSTAGE INCLUDED
OR THE EQUIVALENT IN OTHER CURRENCIES
Printed at Al-Madina Printing and Publishing Co. Jeddah

ABC MEMBER OF THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION

it never has done before — partly because of the admission of Myanmar.

At a two-day meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers which ended on Saturday, Thailand and the Philippines pushed for a fuller discussion of controversial issues, from democracy to the environment. "Like it or not, the issues of democracy and human rights are those that we have to increasingly deal with in our engagement with the outside world," Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan told the conference. "How are we going to put ourselves on the offensive rather than always be on the receiving end?" he asked.

One reason why ASEAN is on the receiving end over human rights is the presence in the organization of Myanmar, whose military rulers crushed a ...velopment Council (SPDC), and the pro-democracy movement led by Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi.

"I know that many in ASEAN are anxious to see a focus on Burma because they know that the problems in Burma are causing difficulties for ASEAN as a whole, for example in the context of ASEAN's dialogue with the European Union," Downer said. "That is constrained, inhibited by the problems in Burma because of the European Union's stand against Burma."

Thailand's Surin delighted human rights campaigners in Asia with his stance on democracy. "ASEAN is in danger of turning into a club of fossilized golf players if it ignores Dr. Surin's comments," said a pressure group called the Alternative ASEAN ... elections are deemed to be fair. This policy is a departure from tradition, since ASEAN has not normally linked membership with free elections. Cambodia was originally due to enter ASEAN last year, but ASEAN put the admission on hold after strongman Hun Sen ousted First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh in a bloody coup.

In Manila, Thailand won agreement in ASEAN that henceforth there would be "enhanced interaction" on big issues with transboundary implications, though the association's hallowed principle of non-interference in members' internal affairs would still operate. Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore spoke out strongly against the Thai proposals for so-called "flexible engagement" and analysts said that ...donesia as countries which would find the new approach difficult. But he said "enhanced interaction" was a vague phrase allowing differences of interpretation. "You can play with the phrase actually," he said.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. A year of crisis in Asia, with currencies crashing and unemployment soaring, has supplied the broad backdrop to the debate on openness in ASEAN. Many seem to feel that avoiding touchy issues is a luxury ASEAN countries can no longer afford.

"The times are too critical to waste time and spare feelings," columnist Beth Day Romulo wrote in a commentary on the debate in the Manila Bulletin daily. (R)

...into backing away from reform.

That view is being increasingly pressed by big business and financial markets — key backers of the Conservatives. "The Telstra issue ad... the list of earlier policy w...ness...which if continued could fu... sidetrack the reform agenda," Citi... economists said. While Costello denied he intended any imme... leadership challenge, his comm... added to a pile of evidence that m... bers of the government are unha... with Howard's management.

Letters to the Editor

Post-mortem on Ronaldo

Even though it is nearly two weeks since the World Cup final, the debate on why it ended the way it did is still going on.

France were the worthy winners of the cup. They were unbeaten and had conceded only two goals while Brazil had been beaten by Norway before losing to France in the final and had conceded 10 goals in all.

Instead of congratulating France on their convincing 3-0 victory, with only 10 men playing in the second half, an unending and meaningless post-mortem on Ronaldo is occupying meters of newspaper columns. The better team has won, and let's salute its great performance and leave Ronaldo to recover from the scar of the cup final.

S.H. Moulana
Riyadh

American names

Mr. Eddie Santos (July 24) is correct in saying that the Americans did not name their country after a British king. That may be because the Americans did not name their country at all. The name America was given to the newly discovered land long before the British colonized what is now the United States of America.

America was in fact named after an Italian, a navigator named Amerigo Vespucci. On the other hand, the 'Americans' i.e. the colonists, did name the places they lived in after British monarchs and notables. For example, Virginia is named for Queen Elizabeth I, Carolina for King Charles, Georgia for King George, Pennsylvania for William Penn, New York for the Duke of York, Pittsburgh for Pitt a British prime minister, Delaware for Lord Delaware etc., etc. The difference is of course that these names were British and were given by people who, though living in the colonies, were also British. This is not the case with Filipinos and the Philippines.

Boniface Rodriquez
Abqaiq

Lessons in unity

Arab nations and peoples have much to learn from the experience of the European Union.

The countries of Europe now have a common and corporate market, joint defense, common policies and a common strategy. A common currency, euro, is about to be introduced. They achieved all this in spite of the fact that they have different languages and a history of wars and enmity. Their peoples are deeply antipathetic to one other. The only shared thing is that they are geographically linked.

In contrast to this, Arabs have many things in common — language, history, literature, religion and so on. With all these factors favoring a common program, they are not united. Europe always develops a common approach to problems, every nation backing the effort of the other in pursuance of a common goal. Arabs, on the other hand, are always fighting each other.

It is time to develop a new kind of thinking.

Hashim Ibrahim
Jeddah

Gonzales' new post

Some appointments of President Estrada have drawn criticism from many quarters on the ground that the appointees did not merits those postings.

However, there is one I am impressed with: the nomination of Andrew Gonzales (FSC) as the secretary of education, culture and sports. Andrew is a La Sallian-trained educator with a dynamic personality. I have great trust in his capability and ability to rehabilitate our ailing educational system. His record as the president of the most prestigious school — De La Salle University — in the Philippines justifies that confidence.

It is sad to note that our educational system keeps on deteriorating day by day due to the meager salary of the teachers and the exodus of qualified and competent educators to other countries seeking greener pastures. The present educational standard can be appreciated from the fact that even college graduates nowadays cannot express themselves in English. The government has to take action to improve the status of Philippine educators. That will boost their morale. They now feel marginalized. The government is apathetic about their plight. They are always promised higher pay but never given. Gone are the days when teaching was considered the most noble profession. How can you be noble when your stomach is empty?

I am positive that Andrew, appointed to the highest post in the educational hierarchy, will pave the way for a better education.

Eduardo D. Forrosuelo
Jeddah

Inability to understand

From the sound of his name, Sven Lundquist (July 14) is unlikely to be a British. It is no wonder therefore that he did not clearly understand my previous letters in English to your column. I never defended American atrocities in my letters as Mr. Lundquist stated. What I wrote about was to contest the overstatements of some of your correspondents who exaggerate their descriptions.

Percy Samson
Riyadh

TODAY IN HISTORY

Monday, July 27, 1998

1563 - **French Army regains Le Havre, France, where English garrison is stricken with plague. Soldiers returning to England introduce the plague.**

1839 - **Opium War between China and Britain begins after Chinese authorities seize and burn British cargoes of opium.**

1848 - **Russians invade Danubian principalities at request of Turkey to put down revolts there.**

1953 - **Korean Armistice is signed at Panmunjom.**

1954 - **Britain and Egypt agree on terms ending 72 years of British control of Suez Canal.**

1980 - **Muhammad Reza Pahlavi, the shah of Iran from 1941 until 1979, dies of cancer while in exile in Egypt.**

1994 - **Bosnian Serbs ambush a U.N. convoy as it approached a road into Sarajevo, killing one British soldier and wounding another.**

1995 - **In Pakistan, army troops and rescue workers battle to evacuate tens of thousands of flood victims as monsoon rains pound much of the nation.**

1996 - **The largest riots in 20 years erupt in Jakarta, Indonesia, following the police storming of opposition Democratic Party headquarters.**

1997 - **Central Europe's most deadly floods in 200 years kill about 100 people in three weeks.**

Thought for today

It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge — Albert Einstein.

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By Khalid Bin Wakil

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Change for the better

Sir – The advanced West is now concentrating on its future prospects and on how to get more success in worldwide business. In contrast, the Mideast nations, which are still laboring under many difficulties, will need ages to get on the road to a better way of life.

Although the Europeans are divided into many nations and have many languages they have grouped themselves together and have agreed to adopt a common currency, the euro. They are also coming together in the fields of technology and commerce and are taking steps to counter the millennium bug which could cause serious problems for computer systems in the year 2000.

We in the Mid-east must make every attempt to change for the better.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Corruption in society

Sir – This has reference to the letter "Corruption and society," by Raj Behl (*Saudi Gazette*, July 18). I agree with him that many institutions in India are suffering from corruption.

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Similarly, at the ... customs department proceeds in the same way. A person works abroad to support his family and when he goes on vacation he is happy to return to his country. However he is very much afraid of the problems he has to face at the airport at the hands of the custom officers. They harass the passengers in an unspeakable manner. It is the same with the police. They are there to help the citizens but, in fact, oppress and even torture them. People are afraid to ask help of the police as they know they are inviting trouble.

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I would like to call on President Joseph Estrada to keep the Philippine Consulate premises free of scalawags and maintain a smooth flow in processing the needs of Philippine nationals.

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This brings us to the question of 'leadership'. The team does require a leader or captain. Without one the team would be in danger of losing its sense of direction. The functions of the captain need to be defined, however.

The 'captain' above all is a member of the team. More equal than others, but a team ...

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Change for the better

Sir – The advanced West is now concentrating on its future prospects and on how to get more success in worldwide business. In contrast, the Mid-east nations, which are still laboring under many difficulties, will need ages to get on the road to a better way of life.

Although the Europeans are divided into many nations and have many languages they have grouped themselves together and have agreed to adopt a common currency, the euro. They are also coming together in the fields of technology and commerce and are taking steps to counter the millennium bug which could cause serious problems for computer systems in the year 2000.

We in the Mid-east must make every attempt to change for the better.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Corruption in society

Sir – This has reference to the letter "Corruption and society," by Raj Behl (*Saudi Gazette*, July 18). I agree with him that many institutions in India are suffering from corruption.

For admission to the schools, colleges and universities, if a student does not have good marks or certificates it does not matter very much but it is compulsory that he should give a bribe or have influence ...

Similarly, ... the customs department proceeds in the same way. A person works abroad to support his family and when he goes on vacation he is happy to return to his country. However he is very much afraid of the problems he has to face at the airport at the hands of the custom officers. They harass the passengers in an unspeakable manner. It is the same with the police. They are there to help the citizens but, in fact, oppress and even torture them. People are afraid to ask help of the police as they know they are inviting trouble.

... offices are the pictures of President Joseph Estrada.

I am happy that Hilvano wants the new ambassador to get rid of all self-seeking diplomats but naming particular individuals was untimely.

I recall experiences we have had recently at the Philippine Consulate premises in Jeddah. The first one was the centennial celebrations and the second was the Ogie Alcasid show for which SR30 was charged as entry fee. I would like to know if it is legal to charge Filipinos on such occasions. Is it permitted by the Philippine government to use the premises of the consulate and charge money for entry? Where do the profits from these programs go?

I would like to call on President Joseph Estrada to keep the Philippine Consulate premises free of scalawags and maintain a smooth flow in processing the needs of Philippine nationals.

Jerry Cuares
Jeddah

Philippine School crisis – 1

Sir – There have been many conflicting claims in the present crisis at the New International Philippine School in Jeddah (NIPSJ) so that most of the parents are confused about the situation. Personally, I do not care who sits on the school board as long as the members respect and represent the sentiments of parents and schoolchildren.

With all that is going on in the NIPSJ, many of us tend to forget an even bigger crisis, the one inside the classrooms where there are classes without permanent or qualified teachers.

Many of us have come to accept this as a fact of school life at the NIPSJ, but problems in the classrooms have more direct and deeper implications for our children's schooling than the board issue.

The administration of the school and the people who are running it from day to day are having a bigger impact – positive or negative – on the ... of our scholars. Sad to say, there are a lot ...

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Unfortunately, the latest bombings bear all the hallmarks of similar attacks on American missions which have taken place in the recent past in various ... with strong anti-American sentiments.

As measures go into place to increase security at American diplomatic locations worldwide, it seems that the advocates of premeditated ruthless violence have taken one step further into the heart of darkness.



... an illicit sexual relationship with intern Monica Lewinsky and then told her to lie about it – is false. If he is telling the truth, and one hopes that he is, the entire mess that has grown all-year long has been utterly unnecessary.

On the other side, independent counsel Kenneth Starr certainly seems to have exceeded the original terms of his mandate in pursuit of a politically motivated inquisition. His original task, remember, was to investigate allegations of wrongdoing by then-Arkansas governor Clinton in connection with the failed Whitewater land development scheme in which he was an investor. Although the Whitewater case resulted in several indictments and convictions of Clinton associates, it did not find anything on the

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Perhaps the good thing is that the scandal is reaching its endgame. Whatever else develops, the president will testify to the grand jury on August 17, and the wheels of justice should crank properly after that. But this development has not stilled the clamor; indeed it has only increased. Most distressing are

... Africa, and the so-called Arab-Israeli peace process, all demand close American attention.

In the current environment, not only are these issues suffering from neglect but Clinton's ability to project American leadership on them has been compromised by the scandal.

The late summer has long been a season of drift in American politics, and not much positive action is expected during this time. But this year, the looming scandal is not just a diversion from the doldrums. It is a threat to America's important business at hand, both at home and abroad. For this threat, Bill Clinton and Kenneth Starr have only themselves to blame.

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Mengz A. Estolano
Jeddah

Man messed up nature

Sir – This summer hundreds of people have died from the searing heat waves which have struck some parts of the US, Europe and the Indian subcontinent. In addition to that, a large number of people have died and millions have been displaced by the floods which have been raging in the South Asian and East Asian countries. It is feared that the human toll will rise, because of diseases coming in the wake of the floods. So the sum total of long-term adverse effects cannot yet be estimated. It could take years to resettle the uprooted persons and rebuild houses, dams and bridges that have been washed away. There is human agony and anguish on an unprecedented scale all around us. But modern man has become so addicted to sensationalism and dramatization that, on satellite channels, you notice a large part of the news time being consumed by the titillating case of Monica Lewinsky or by the incredible complaints of Richard Butler while the grave human tragedies occurring around us rarely get a mention, or perhaps only at the end of a broadcast. We are told that over forty million dollars have already been spent in connection with the Lewinsky testimony and it is likely to swallow millions more, but to prove what? Something which people suspected all along. Would it not have been better to use that sort of money for ... not time to pause and think because our mea culpa before Him can only save us? Should we not all utilize our resources thriftily, for the betterment of mankind and this planet?

Raj Behl
Jeddah

Israel the culprit

Sir – The situation in the Mid-east is very bad due to the rigid position adopted by Israel. The US has put forward proposals which have been accepted by the Palestinians but rejected by Israel. The power of that recalcitrant state – even within the United States – is clear for everyone to see. I believe that Israel has orchestrated the scandals surrounding President Clinton in order to further its own designs and frustrate the aspirations of the Palestinian people. Israel will adopt any methods, however iniquitous, to get its way.

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Letters to the Editor

International trials

In is indisputable that the racial, religious and cultural inclinations of the judiciary and jurors have a great influence on the outcome of any trial. Obviously, some trials may be more susceptible to these factors than others. Examples of these racially sensitive trials include that of O.J. Simpson, Rodney King and the five well-known trials of Sam Bowers (the head of the Mississippi Ku Klux Klan) for the murder of the black activist Vernon Dahmer Sr. that took 30 years since it was committed in 1966.

No trial can be more controversial than that of the PanAm bombing over Lockerbie. Its racial and political implications are grave. Since the bombing of the U.S. plane over Lockerbie in 1988, the United States and Britain demanded that Libya hand over its two nationals suspected of carrying out this terrible crime. Libya insisted that the trial should be held in a third country by an international panel of judges to ensure that they get a fair hearing. The negotiations reached a deadlock and America and Britain, using their influence in the Security Council, imposed sanctions against Libya.

After six years, the two have agreed to hold the trials in The Hague before a Scottish panel of judges and promised to lift the sanctions once Libya handed over the two accused men. The plan was a take-it-or-leave-it proposition, which is like giving the policemen who battered Rodney King only one choice of an all-black jury.

Does it matter where the trial is held or by whom as long as justice is done and the criminals are punished?

This is a slap on the face of the War Crime Tribunal that consists of an international panel of judges. If this justice system is good enough to try Nazi and Serb war criminals, it should be equally good to try terrorist suspects.

Future disputes should be resolved through an international court to avoid unnecessary and harsh sanctions against those countries that have no influence or backing in the Security Council.

Nizam A. B. Yagoub
Udhailiyah

House in order

The letters of Ms. Ayesha and Masood Sharif on the Muslim reaction to America's missile attacks on Afghanistan and Sudan give the impression that Muslims do not have the right to talk about others unless they first set their house in order. It is highly impossible in any society at any period, irrespective of religion, ethnic identity, nationality and race. At present not a single community or nation has a house set fully in order. If it is the general criteria for the expression of opinion, then no one has the right to talk about others.

We must question why, for the outrageous mistakes of one or two extremist groups, the whole community should suffer. We strongly oppose the chemistry of mixing Islam with these outrageous activities. Meanwhile, we condemn the method of missile attacks on sovereign countries, as the worst example of arrogance toward weak nations.

S. Akbar Batcha
Jeddah

Hasty reforms

Russia is only the latest to join the list of nations whose economies have gone to the dogs. While the collapse of a number of eastern economies have multiple reasons, one common feature is their headlong rush to "reform". There is nothing wrong with reform as such. But it should be undertaken after an analysis of the system in force and a clear understanding of what is wrong with it. The reformers also should have a clear idea of the specific changes to be brought about and the impact of those changes.

This was not the case with the Asian reforms that have brought so much grief. It was a rush job, all national leaders in a race to be the first to reform. Every Tom, Dick and his brother in law of the non-Soviet bloc became an instant expert on economy and pushed these countries to the whirlpool of sudden changes. All were pulled under.

The lesson is that when any nation wants to change from one system to another, it has to follow the correct method. It should have an understanding of the effects of interaction with external sides and international markets. Asia and Russia can provide any number of examples to prove the damage hasty changes can bring.

In the real world, where actions and responses are determined by self-interests, it would be foolish to put too much trust in promises.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Postal delay

Until three months ago, letters from and to India used to reach the addressee in less than one week. Now a letter from takes more than three weeks to reach the addressee in Riyadh. But the letters to India are delivered within a week as before.

Such delays create much problems for expatriates whose only means of contact with their families are letters.

I hope the concerned authorities will look into this.

Hamza Marukara
Riyadh

Lesson in destruction

When 60 to 70 percent of the population is below the poverty line and uneducated, it is imagine how they will be manipulated by educated political hooligans. The present prime minister of India, Vajpayee, is famous for his integrity and good nature though he belongs to a communal party. Now, he has "found" that Chief Minister Karunanidhi, under investigation by a judge, is above suspicion. His name was printed by mistake, the prime minister assures us. We all know why the PM is doing it. Karunanidhi is a potential lifeline in case the coalition boat under the command of Vajpayee begins to sink. This clearly shows the PM's moral and political bankruptcy. Such rank political opportunism is making a mockery of the system.

For 500 parliament seats, 5,000 rich people contest. It is unfortunate but true that only rich people can afford to contest in elections in India. Whether they are from the X party or the Y party, their interests are the same - to loot and bankrupt the country in the shortest time possible. Their entire mental and physical abilities are concentrated on achieving their goal and they do it without any sense of guilt. Everything is fair in love, war and Indian politics.

Our politics and politicians have taught us how to destroy 50 years of freedom in 50 days.

Dr. Y.R. Nath
Jeddah

Strange handshake

By burning their own national flag on the occasion of the country's Independence Day, MQM activists have shown their party's real face, its intentions and motto. Despite this act of rebellion by the MQM and its involvement in terrorism and other illegal activities, the Nawaz Sharif government is still extending its full support to this group. Burning the national flag is an act of treason. The culprits must be punished without any delay. Most of the killings and crimes in Karachi are politically sponsored and the government is responsible for the situation.

The MQM has recently come to an agreement with another separatist group, Jiyay Sindh, which also has a record of burning the flag and has been struggling for a separate province "Sindhu Desh". This handshake has compelled the Mohajir community to have second thoughts about the MQM as Jiyay Sindh is totally against the Mohajir cause and vehemently opposes the repatriation of the Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh which is one of the main issues taken up by the MQM — though only on paper.

S.M. Nasir
Dhahran

nothing to improve ...

Nonetheless, election results and opinion polls show that many Russians, possibly a majority, still support democracy, indicating they are not ready to turn back to the country's authoritarian past. (AP)



Tuesday, September 1, 1998

- **1494** - France's King Charles VIII invades Italy to claim throne of Naples.
- **1542** - Holy Roman Empire's campaign against the Turks in Hungary fails.
- **1674** - William of Orange takes Grave, Belgium, but is unable to invade France.
- **1706** - British successfully defend Charleston, South Carolina, against French and Spanish.
- **1923** - The Great Kanto Earthquake shakes the Tokyo metropolitan area, killing more than 142,000 people.
- **1945** - Japan surrenders aboard USS battleship Missouri at end of World War II.
- **1961** - First summit of the Non-Aligned Movement is held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.
- **1969** - Army stages coup in Libya, monarchy is deposed and Libyan Arab Republic is proclaimed.
- **1990** - Two Germanys sign a treaty that provides the blueprint for reunification.
- **1991** - Mikhail Gorbachev promises independence to Baltic republics.
- **1993** - Bosnia's government rejects a plan to end 17 months of ethnic warfare and peace talks collapse.
- **1995** - French Navy commandos arrest two Greenpeace divers at the South Pacific atoll where France is to conduct an underground nuclear test.

Thought for today
There are no warlike peoples; just warlike leaders — Ralph J. Bunche

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International trials

In is indisputable that the racial, religious and cultural inclinations of the judiciary and jurors have a great influence on the outcome of any trial. Obviously, some trials may be more susceptible to these factors than others. Examples of these racially sensitive trials include that of O.J. Simpson, Rodney King and the five well-known trials of Sam Bowers (the head of the Mississippi Ku Klux Klan) for the murder of the black activist Vernon Dahmer Sr. that took 30 years since it was committed in 1966.

No trial can be more controversial than that of the PanAm bombing over Lockerbie. Its racial and political implications are grave. Since the bombing of the U.S. plane over Lockerbie in 1988, the United States and Britain demanded that Libya hand over its two nationals suspected of carrying out this terrible crime. Libya insisted that the trial should be held in a third country by an international panel of judges to ensure that they get a fair hearing. The negotiations reached a deadlock and America and Britain, using their influence in the Security Council, imposed sanctions against Libya.

After six years, the two have agreed to hold the trials in The Hague before a Scottish panel of judges and promised to lift the sanctions once Libya handed over the two accused men. The plan was a take-it-or-leave-it proposition, which is like giving the policemen who battered Rodney King only one choice of an all-black jury.

Does it matter where the trial is held or by whom as long as justice is done and the criminals are punished?

This is a slap on the face of the War Crime Tribunal that consists of an international panel of judges. If this justice system is good enough to try Nazi and Serb war criminals, it should be equally good to try terrorist suspects.

Future disputes should be resolved through an international court to avoid unnecessary and harsh sanctions against those countries that have no influence or backing in the Security Council.

Nizam A. B. Yagoub
Udhailiyah

House in order

The letters of Ms. Ayesha and Masood Sharif on the Muslim reaction to America's missile attacks on Afghanistan and Sudan give the impression that Muslims do not have the right to talk about others unless they first set their house in order. It is highly impossible in any society at any period, irrespective of religion, ethnic identity, nationality and race. At present not a single community or nation has a house set fully in order. If it is the general criteria for the expression of opinion, then no one has the right to talk about others.

We must question why, for the outrageous mistakes of one or two extremist groups, the whole community should suffer. We strongly oppose the chemistry of mixing Islam with these outrageous activities. Meanwhile, we condemn the method of missile attacks on sovereign countries, as the worst example of arrogance toward weak nations.

S. Akbar Batcha
Jeddah

Hasty reforms

Russia is only the latest to join the list of nations whose economies have gone to the dogs. While the collapse of a number of eastern economies have multiple reasons, one common feature is their headlong rush to "reform". There is nothing wrong with reform as such. But it should be undertaken after an analysis of the system in force and a clear understanding of what is wrong with it. The reformers also should have a clear idea of the specific changes to be brought about and the impact of those changes.

This was not the case with the Asian reforms that have brought so much grief. It was a rush job, all national leaders in a race to be the first to reform. Every Tom, Dick and his brother in law of the non-Soviet bloc became an instant expert on economy and pushed these countries to the whirlpool of sudden changes. All were pulled under.

The lesson is that when any nation wants to change from one system to another, it has to follow the correct method. It should have an understanding of the effects of interaction with external sides and international markets. Asia and Russia can provide any number of examples to prove the damage hasty changes can bring.

In the real world, where actions and responses are determined by self-interests, it would be foolish to put too much trust in promises.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Postal delay

Until three months ago, letters from and to India used to reach the addressee in less than one week. Now a letter from takes more than three weeks to reach the addressee in Riyadh. But the letters to India are delivered within a week as before.

Such delays create much problems for expatriates whose only means of contact with their families are letters.

I hope the concerned authorities will look into this.

Hamza Marukara
Riyadh

Lesson in destruction

When 60 to 70 percent of the population is below the poverty line and uneducated, it is imagine how they will be manipulated by educated political hooligans. The present prime minister of India, Vajpayee, is famous for his integrity and good nature though he belongs to a communal party. Now, he has "found" that Chief Minister Karunanidhi, under investigation by a judge, is above suspicion. His name was printed by mistake, the prime minister assures us. We all know why the PM is doing it. Karunanidhi is a potential lifeline in case the coalition boat under the command of Vajpayee begins to sink. This clearly shows the PM's moral and political bankruptcy. Such rank political opportunism is making a mockery of the system.

For 500 parliament seats, 5,000 rich people contest. It is unfortunate but true that only rich people can afford to contest in elections in India. Whether they are from the X party or the Y party, their interests are the same - to loot and bankrupt the country in the shortest time possible. Their entire mental and physical abilities are concentrated on achieving their goal and they do it without any sense of guilt. Everything is fair in love, war and Indian politics.

Our politics and politicians have taught us how to destroy 50 years of freedom in 50 days.

Dr. Y.R. Nath
Jeddah

Strange handshake

By burning their own national flag on the occasion of the country's Independence Day, MQM activists have shown their party's real face, its intentions and motto. Despite this act of rebellion by the MQM and its involvement in terrorism and other illegal activities, the Nawaz Sharif government is still extending its full support to this group. Burning the national flag is an act of treason. The culprits must be punished without any delay. Most of the killings and crimes in Karachi are politically sponsored and the government is responsible for the situation.

The MQM has recently come to an agreement with another separatist group, Jiyay Sindh, which also has a record of burning the flag and has been struggling for a separate province "Sindhu Desh". This handshake has compelled the Mohajir community to have second thoughts about the MQM as Jiyay Sindh is totally against the Mohajir cause and vehemently opposes the repatriation of the Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh which is one of the main issues taken up by the MQM — though only on paper.

S.M. Nasir
Dhahran

nothing to improve their ...

Nonetheless, election results and opinion polls show that many Russians, possibly a majority, still support democracy, indicating they are not ready to turn back to the country's authoritarian past. *(AP)*

TODAY IN HISTORY

Tuesday, September 1, 1998

- **1494** - France's King Charles VIII invades Italy to claim throne of Naples.
- **1542** - Holy Roman Empire's campaign against the Turks in Hungary fails.
- **1674** - William of Orange takes Grave, Belgium, but is unable to invade France.
- **1706** - British successfully defend Charleston, South Carolina, against French and Spanish.
- **1923** - The Great Kanto Earthquake shakes the Tokyo metropolitan area, killing more than 142,000 people.
- **1945** - Japan surrenders aboard USS battleship Missouri at end of World War II.
- **1961** - First summit of the Non-Aligned Movement is held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.
- **1969** - Army stages coup in Libya, monarchy is deposed and Libyan Arab Republic is proclaimed.
- **1990** - Two Germanys sign a treaty that provides the blueprint for reunification.
- **1991** - Mikhail Gorbachev promises independence to Baltic republics.
- **1993** - Bosnia's government rejects a plan to end 17 months of ethnic warfare and peace talks collapse.
- **1995** - French Navy commandos arrest two Greenpeace divers at the South Pacific atoll where France is to conduct an underground nuclear test.

Thought for today

There are no warlike peoples; just warlike leaders — Ralph J. Bunche

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Letters to the Editor

Turkey-Syria tension

The escalating tension between Turkey and Syria warns of very dangerous possibilities. The Middle East has enough problems already. Arab and Muslim leaders who are aware of the terrible consequences of a conflict must act to defuse the situation.

It must not be forgotten that Israel will be the only one to benefit from a war. The appointment of Ariel Sharon as its foreign minister is a sign that its stand, instead of softening, will harden. So, instead of patch-up diplomacy, the leaders of the region must go into the root of the problem and misunderstanding and solve them once and for all.

Hashim I. Filalai
Jeddah

Puntland state

A couple of weeks ago an important event took place in Somalia and, for once at least, good news came from that unlucky country. This is so, because instead of the usual fare of violence, death and destruction that we have been getting from there for the past eight years, there was refreshing news concerning the approval and swearing-in of nine ministers belonging to the newly created regional administration of "Puntland state" before a 45-member democratically elected parliament and the chairman of the new local government, Mr. Abdullahi Yussuf Ahmad. The chairman also submitted to the parliament the proposed program of action of his regional administration for the next year.

Unfortunately, neither AFP nor the other Western news agencies, which are your main source of information, reported this positive and peaceful development, because they don't consider it newsworthy.

But in the opinion of many observers of the Somali political scene — both nationals and foreign experts — the collapsed Somali State could only be restored through the creation and proper functioning of regional governments like that of Puntland, as they would eventually constitute the basis for a new federal system for Somalia as a whole. This is a significant departure from the faulty approach of the past seven years, when Somali warlords, particularly those of Mogadishu city, were trying to immediately form a central government (in the midst of civil war) and endlessly haggle over who gets what position at the top.

Some people think that Puntland state may not work due mainly to economic reasons. However, they are, in my view, mistaken. This new local government can survive and even prosper, because it has many factors in its favor, i.e., peace and tranquillity which are being enforced by a newly created regular police force, and a high percentage of educated and enterprising citizens. Add to this some important natural resources such as livestock and fisheries. There is also, according to reports, the possibility of considerable quantities of petroleum in that region of northeastern Somalia.

Incidentally, the name Puntland comes from a well-known Somali state that existed in that part of the Horn of Africa about 5,000 years ago and had strong trade and commercial links with ancient Egypt whereby the latter's ships used to regularly sail to Puntland to get myrrh and incense for the pharaonic temples in exchange for agricultural products and other commodities from Egypt.

Hassan Haji Muhammad
Jeddah

Vitamin E

I would like to comment on the article "Is vitamins enthusiasm justified?" (Oct. 9)

While I do agree with the article where it points out that even a good thing like vitamins can be taken too far and can cause damage by taking excessive amounts, I do take exception to Ms. Haukbo's statement, "However, there has been no double-blind clinical trial to provide definitive proof of vitamin E's benefits". Ms. Haukbo is inaccurate. There was a double-blind clinical trial of vitamin E performed right here in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the Asir Maternity Hospital's Infertility Center by a group of doctors from the College of Medicine, Abha branch of the King Saud University on the use of vitamin E as an antioxidant in a certain group of infertile males with poor sperm motility. In the double-blind study performed, it showed that the group of men who received vitamin E achieved a 21 percent rate of impregnating their wives, while there were no pregnancies in the placebo group. When the study was concluded, some of the men in the placebo group who then received vitamin E where able to impregnate their wives. Several of the men who were successful in the vitamin E study later returned to the Infertility Center desiring more children and were successful after receiving another course of vitamin E.

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Abha

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tacitly trying to subvert each other's courage, they might be able to march against establishment opinion with some effect. Instead, acting as lone individuals, they go along to get along. They tell themselves that they have done this or done that, which their conventional predecessors never would.

We can see this so clearly with Clinton. I'd make a guess that Clinton tells himself, "I'll never press the button". Or that he wallows in the fact — which was leaked to the press — that he stayed up to the small hours of the morning to make sure that the cruise missiles targeted on a Sudanese factory were only fired when he was personally convinced that every worker was back at home, safely tucked up in bed.

And he is obviously proud too, of how on his African trip earlier this year, he asked forgiveness from the people of Rwanda for failing them in their hour of need, when the U.S. stymied efforts by U.N. peacekeepers to

brass, particularly after his early failed effort to allow gays in the military to come out of the closet. He would not even get behind the campaign to ban land mines, despite a public opinion softened by the death of Princess Diana. Nor would he push for what he had said he wanted, an International Criminal Court, even though America's closest allies in NATO all voted for it.

This week it was almost the turn of the German Greens to take the high ground — or the low ground — on a decision of momentous proportions, whether to bomb the heartland of a fellow European country. Fortunately for them the threat of force was, it appears, enough to persuade Milosevic to compromise. (NATO was lucky that its bluff was mightier than its sword — all the evidence of the twentieth century suggests that aerial bombing works to consolidate the power of whoever rules beneath).

So Fischer is off the hook of his mighty dilemma this time. And next?

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something about this parity of responsibility that bothered Netanyahu, with the result that the CIA has been working on a document whose wording will satisfy him right up to the talks.

The question of the Israeli settlement drive has been dealt with in a similar manner. The apparent compromise is that the Israelis will begin no new settlements and annex no more land, but are free to expand existing settlements.

Since many have already annexed large tracts, the Israelis have not given up anything material. And the thickening up is proceeding apace — authorization was given Thursday for one

settler community to expand from a planned 100 houses to 1,200. Finally, the Israelis want final status talks to begin straight away, with the third withdrawal laid down by Oslo reduced to a risible 1 percent. If, as seems likely, an agreement does emerge out of the talks in Washington over the next four days it will be favorable to Netanyahu.

That makes it even more amazing that there are plenty of rumors in Israel that Netanyahu will use anything that can be represented as a Palestinian security infringement to halt even the limited withdrawals to which he is now probably preparing to agree. (**Editorial comment** — *Guardian*)

to be softening his stand with regard to a real political solution to the Palestine issue. But, unfortunately, this shifting takes place very late at a time when the power in Israel has been captured by rightist extremists who want peace in exchange for nothing!

While the Palestinian Authority fears political competition from Hamas, it cannot afford to force Hamas to stop its military activities, because that will mean surrendering its strongest card. The principle of the incumbent Israeli prime minister is "peace for security". Security has been there since Hamas stopped its activities. Security will be ensured when the Palestine Authority clips its wings. If that happens, there will be no need for any efforts on the part of Israeli government for negotiation or peace.

Support for Hamas is a strategic Palestinian decision in spite of the fact that Hamas poses a danger to the existence of the Palestinian Authority. Moreover, there is a possibility that Hamas will become PA's political alternative. This was apparent from the news that Israel had made contacts with some Hamas leaders.

However, Netanyahu does not want to hand over more than 10 percent of the occupied territories to Palestinians under any circumstances. Under the current plan, 3 percent will be declared a nature reserve under Israeli security control. Then, what will the Palestinian Authority do other than threaten to declare a Palestine state? There are people who dislike a renewal of violence in the Palestine dispute and are working fervently for a breakthrough without any bloodshed for recovering the occupied territories. But even such people have lost all hopes because of the practices of the Netanyahu government whose policies are more hostile than those of Menachem Begin and his successor, Yitzhak Shamir.

In this situation, Palestinian Authority would protect Hamas, not destroy it.

Letters to the Editor

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Kedir Atta
Jeddah

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But, these pieces of good news come against a background of ominous warnings. The government's borrowings from the banking sector in the first quarter of 1998-99 has reached 45 billion rupees as against a total of 43 billion rupees stipulated for the whole fiscal year ending on June 30, 1999. This is the result of political expediency dictating policies. The government is also feverishly trying to secure short-term expensive loans from various outside sources in addition to the IMF.

However, though desperately seeking funds, the government has not touched the loan defaulters who owe billions to the national exchequer.

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tacitly trying to subvert each other's courage, they might be able to march against establishment opinion with some effect. Instead, acting as lone individuals, they go along to get along. They tell themselves that they have done this or done that, which their conventional predecessors never would.

We can see this so clearly with Clinton. I'd make a guess that Clinton tells himself, "I'll never press the button". Or that he wallows in the fact — which was leaked to the press — that he stayed up to the small hours of the morning to make sure that the cruise missiles targeted on a Sudanese factory were only fired when he was personally convinced that every worker was back at home, safely tucked up in bed.

And he is obviously proud too, of how on his African trip earlier this year, he asked forgiveness from the people of Rwanda for failing them in their hour of need, when the U.S. stymied efforts by U.N. peacekeepers to

brass, particularly after his early failed effort to allow gays in the military to come out of the closet. He would not even get behind the campaign to ban land mines, despite a public opinion softened by the death of Princess Diana. Nor would he push for what he had said he wanted, an International Criminal Court, even though America's closest allies in NATO all voted for it.

This week it was almost the turn of the German Greens to take the high ground — or the low ground — on a decision of momentous proportions, whether to bomb the heartland of a fellow European country. Fortunately for them the threat of force was, it appears, enough to persuade Milosevic to compromise. (NATO was lucky that its bluff was mightier than its sword — all the evidence of the twentieth century suggests that aerial bombing works to consolidate the power of whoever rules beneath).

So Fischer is off the hook of his mighty dilemma this time. And next?

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something about this parity of responsibility that bothered Netanyahu, with the result that the CIA has been working on a document whose wording will satisfy him right up to the talks.

The question of the Israeli settlement drive has been dealt with in a similar manner. The apparent compromise is that the Israelis will begin no new settlements and annex no more land, but are free to expand existing settlements.

Since many have already annexed large tracts, the Israelis have not given up anything material. And the thickening up is proceeding apace — authorization was given Thursday for one

settler community to expand from a planned 100 houses to 1,200. Finally, the Israelis want final status talks to begin straight away, with the third withdrawal laid down by Oslo reduced to a risible 1 percent. If, as seems likely, an agreement does emerge out of the talks in Washington over the next four days it will be favorable to Netanyahu.

That makes it even more amazing that there are plenty of rumors in Israel that Netanyahu will use anything that can be represented as a Palestinian security infringement to halt even the limited withdrawals to which he is now probably preparing to agree. (**Editorial comment** — *Guardian*)

a real political solution to the Palestine issue. But, unfortunately, this shifting takes place very late at a time when the power in Israel has been captured by rightist extremists who want peace in exchange for nothing!

While the Palestinian Authority fears political competition from Hamas, it cannot afford to force Hamas to stop its military activities, because that will mean surrendering its strongest card. The principle of the incumbent Israeli prime minister is "peace for security". Security has been there since Hamas stopped its activities. Security will be ensured when the Palestine Authority clips its wings. If that happens, there will be no need for any efforts on the part of Israeli government for negotiation or peace.

Support for Hamas is a strategic Palestinian decision in spite of the fact that Hamas poses a danger to the existence of the Palestinian Authority. Moreover, there is a possibility that Hamas will become PA's political alternative. This was apparent from the news that Israel had made contacts with some Hamas leaders.

However, Netanyahu does not want to hand over more than 10 percent of the occupied territories to Palestinians under any circumstances. Under the current plan, 3 percent will be declared a nature reserve under Israeli security control. Then, what will the Palestinian Authority do other than threaten to declare a Palestine state? There are people who dislike a renewal of violence in the Palestine dispute and are working fervently for a breakthrough without any bloodshed for recovering the occupied territories. But even such people have lost all hopes because of the practices of the Netanyahu government whose policies are more hostile than those of Menachem Begin and his successor, Yitzhak Shamir.

In this situation, Palestinian Authority would protect Hamas, not destroy it.

Letters to the Editor

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The new chancellor will, obviously, need his wits about his every waking moment if he is to serve out his full term of office.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: SR900 (U.S. $241)
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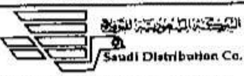
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Unfazed Mahathir shows

By Nelson Graves
Kuala Lumpur

HEMMED in by critics at home and abroad, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad is increasingly isolated over the arrest of his former protégé, Anwar Ibrahim.

But in trademark fashion, Mahathir is showing no signs of backing away from the fight and is keeping even his allies guessing about his next political move. After 17 years in office, Mahathir might be forgiven for contemplating turning over the reins of power. He says he had planned to step down after next month's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum summit meeting in Kuala Lumpur, but the recession and the power vacuum created by the sacking of former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar are keeping him in the job.

A less combative politician might feel chastened after seeing the leaders of two big neighbors — Indonesia and the Philippines — join the chorus of Western criticism over the treatment of Anwar, who says he was beaten in custody. But Mahathir has shrugged off the criticism, letting cabinet colleagues slam foreign leaders for interfering in Malaysia's internal affairs.

Political analysts and diplomats say Mahathir is tackling criticism of the handling of Anwar in much the same way he managed international fallout from currency controls — with a mixture of public defiance and strategic retreats. In Tokyo on Tuesday, Mahathir struck a hard line in public, saying Anwar wanted to topple the government. "He (Anwar) doesn't want to be tried by the courts," Mahathir told a news conference. "He wants to be tried by street mobs who will support him and bring down the government." A Southeast Asian diplomat said: "At home, Mahathir can't be seen to be weak in the face of foreign pressure."

Anwar was arrested under the Internal Security Act (ISA), which allows indefinite detention without trial, and only later indicted on 10 criminal

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Arab trade bloc

There is an urgent need for Arab countries to form a trade bloc and develop a common trade strategy to cope with the challenges of the future. The practices and policies of the past, though eminently successful then, are no longer valid in a world that has undergone fundamental changes in trade relations. If we wish to play a significant role in the global economy, there has to be an Arab market and an Arab currency.

In every part of the world, there are movements toward such a goal. When nations with different languages, cultures and historical hostilities can come together, it must be much more easier for Arab countries to create a sort of commonwealth. Europe has made all preparations to launch its common currency. Before that they had a common market. Considering the linguistic, cultural and historical differences of the members of the European family, the experiment should have failed. But it did not. It has proved itself very successful.

There is an example for us to follow — and expeditiously.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

As great as Franco

This is with reference to your editorial "Pinochet" (Oct. 20). Arresting Gen. Pinochet was a rotten and foul thing to do. The man was traveling on a diplomatic passport and thus had diplomatic immunity. Whatever has happened to diplomatic protocol? But this is the sort of antics we can expect



from this truly appalling regime headed by a former rock band member — Tony Blair.

Augusto Pinochet saved not only Chile but probably the whole of Latin America from communism. He was ruthless, yes, but he was a just man. True, Allende was democratically elected, but his election was for life and when Pinochet moved against him it was with the backing of the Chilean people who were sick and tired of Allende's ineptness and corruption. Pinochet is a real hero.

Pinochet is often classified as just another "fascist". This he was not. There is only one man who can be compared to Pinochet in terms of quality and that is the late Gen. Franco of Spain. Pinochet and Franco were not politicians; they ruled their respective countries purely in an apolitical and managerial way within a context of military discipline. I therefore, for what it is worth, call on the relevant British authorities to release Gen. Pinochet — this instant!

Francis A. Andrew
Dammam

Stranded Pakistanis

Your recent article on the Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh highlighted their suffering since the separation of East Pakistan. The successive governments in Pakistan have been repeating

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ABC MEMBER OF THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION

Unfazed Mahathir shows ...

By Nelson Graves
Kuala Lumpur

HEMMED in by critics at home and abroad, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad is increasingly isolated over the arrest of his former protégé, Anwar Ibrahim.

But in trademark fashion, Mahathir is showing no signs of backing away from the fight and is keeping even his allies guessing about his next political move. After 17 years in office, Mahathir might be forgiven for contemplating turning over the reins of power. He says he had planned to step down after next month's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum summit meeting in Kuala Lumpur, but the recession and the power vacuum created by the sacking of former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar are keeping him in the job.

A less combative politician might feel chastened after seeing the leaders of two big neighbors — Indonesia and the Philippines — join the chorus of Western criticism over the treatment of Anwar, who says he was beaten in custody. But Mahathir has shrugged off the criticism, letting cabinet colleagues slam foreign leaders for interfering in Malaysia's internal affairs.

Political analysts and diplomats say Mahathir is tackling criticism of the handling of Anwar in much the same way he managed international fallout from currency controls — with a mixture of public defiance and strategic retreats. In Tokyo on Tuesday, Mahathir struck a hard line in public, saying Anwar wanted to topple the government. "He (Anwar) doesn't want to be tried by the courts," Mahathir told a news conference. "He wants to be tried by street mobs who will support him and bring down the government." A Southeast Asian diplomat said: "At home, Mahathir can't be seen to be weak in the face of foreign pressure."

Anwar was arrested under the Internal Security Act (ISA), which allows indefinite detention without trial, and only later indicted on 10 criminal

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Arab trade bloc

There is an urgent need for Arab countries to form a trade bloc and develop a common trade strategy to cope with the challenges of the future. The practices and policies of the past, though eminently successful then, are no longer valid in a world that has undergone fundamental changes in trade relations. If we wish to play a significant role in the global economy, there has to be an Arab market and an Arab currency.

In every part of the world, there are movements toward such a goal. When nations with different languages, cultures and historical hostilities can come together, it must be much more easier for Arab countries to create a sort of commonwealth. Europe has made all preparations to launch its common currency. Before that they had a common market. Considering the linguistic, cultural and historical differences of the members of the European family, the experiment should have failed. But it did not. It has proved itself very successful.

There is an example for us to follow — and expeditiously.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

As great as Franco

This is with reference to your editorial "Pinochet" (Oct. 20). Arresting Gen. Pinochet was a rotten and foul thing to do. The man was traveling on a diplomatic passport and thus had diplomatic immunity. Whatever has happened to diplomatic protocol? But this is the sort of antics we can expect from this truly appalling regime headed by a former rock band member — Tony Blair.

Augusto Pinochet saved not only Chile but probably the whole of Latin America from communism. He was ruthless, yes, but he was a just man. True, Allende was democratically elected, but his election was for life and when Pinochet moved against him it was with the backing of the Chilean people who were sick and tired of Allende's ineptness and corruption. Pinochet is a real hero.

Pinochet is often classified as just another "fascist". This he was not. There is only one man who can be compared to Pinochet in terms of quality and that is the late Gen. Franco of Spain. Pinochet and Franco were not politicians; they ruled their respective countries purely in an apolitical and managerial way within a context of military discipline. I therefore, for what it is worth, call on the relevant British authorities to release Gen. Pinochet — this instant!

Francis A. Andrew
Dammam

Stranded Pakistanis

Your recent article on the Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh highlighted their suffering since the separation of East Pakistan. The successive governments in Pakistan have been repeating

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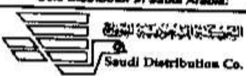
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Pinochet, who is thought to be responsible for the deaths of more than 3,000 political opponents, was detained during a visit to London on Oct. 16 at the request of Spanish investigating magistrate, Baltasar Garzon.

Garzon wants to bring Pinochet to trial for the deaths of more than 3,000 people, including several Spaniards, in Chile during his iron-fist rule from 1973 to 1990.

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If, on the other hand, Britain's law lords unexpectedly quashes the decision of the High Court, Pinochet could become the first head of state



Mideast peace

Impediments in the way of implementing the Wye accord should not drive the seekers of peace in the Middle East to despair. After all, the accord is not the final step in the peace process. It is, at best, one single step in the right direction. Where it will lead will be determined by the actions that follow. If the terms of the agreement are executed by the parties — Palestinians, Israelis and the Americans — there is hope. Further, as the past has proved, both in Israel and Palestine and even outside, there are forces whose actions and inactions can affect the fate of the accord. When any process has that many imponderables, it would be rash to predict the final outcome. All that anybody can do is to pray.

It is not the first time for an agreement to be signed between Arabs and Israelis. It will not be easy to get Israel to release what it took by force from Arabs or to leave any part of the occupied land. Only a statesman with vision can see the long-term advantages of such an action. Israel does not have, at the moment, the benefit of such a leadership. For the present, it is extremely unlikely that the Palestinian will get a fair deal from the Israelis. So they should not be too optimistic about a fair implementation of what has been agreed on by Israel.

Hashim I. Filali
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Francis A. Andrew
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terence last September.

Now members of the ruling Labor Party in Wales and London are asking the same question as Prime Minister Tony Blair's lieutenants move to block the chances of two popular mavericks to head devolved governments in Wales and London.

Rhodri Morgan, a shock-haired Welsh back-bench member of Parliament, has the support of most of the Welsh Labor Party to head the country's new devolved executive next year — but not of Blair, who considers him not loyal enough to his "New Labor" vision. In London, where a city mayor will be elected in 2000, an even more "off-message" figure is threatening to capture the Labor nomination.

The Old Labor ghost stalking Blair is hard-line left-wing MP Ken Liv-... erupted two weeks ago with the sudden disgrace of its candidate to lead its campaign for the assembly, Welsh Secretary Ron Davies.

Wales is a Labor stronghold and Davies, 52, looked a certainty to assume the title of first secretary and run the new devolved administration in Cardiff after defeating Morgan in a hard-fought inner-party battle. But Davies had to resign after being robbed at knife point after a mysterious evening stroll around a London common known as a rendezvous for gay men.

The man named by Blair to succeed him as Welsh secretary, Junior Home Office Minister Alun Michael, has been parachuted in to fill Davies's shoes. But many in the Welsh party are furious at attempts to give him the job unopposed. Morgan, more popular at the Welsh grassroots than Michael, has ... pick its top candidate. In London, moves are under way this week to ensure that all Labor candidates for the mayor's job will have to be approved by a selection panel at party headquarters, where Livingstone is persona non grata.

By contrast, the opposition Conservative Party has promised an open vote of all its members in London and has pledged there will be no backstage maneuvers to scupper the chances of the front-runner, millionaire novelist Lord Jeffrey Archer. Archer is oblivious to hints from high up in the party that his colorful reputation will harm its chances.

Livingstone, despite his far-left views, is fondly remembered by Londoners as the man who lowered public transport fares and fought a losing battle against then Prime Minister Mar-... political wing of the Irish Republican Army.

Livingstone diplomatically blames "junior officials" in the party rather than Blair himself for trying to block him from standing. "Tony Blair has built his career on listening to members' views on one man, one vote. Now if at the last minute he dumps all that, I think it will be very embarrassing," he said. "I don't believe he will."

Blair's dilemma over Morgan and Livingstone proves to some that he has failed to accept that devolution of powers away from central government will inevitably mean decentralizing the Labor party as well. "This is a devolving government," Blair's spokesman said. But he added that Blair would like to make sure as Labor Party leader that the new jobs in Wales and London were filled by "very good people".

(R)

... suggest the possible unveiling of larger issues in the near future.

Letters to the Editor

Changing times

Some of us have obviously failed to realize that we are living in a changing world. What was true two decades ago, even a few months ago, is not valid today. But there are many national leaders among us who have been repeating the same rhetoric for years and years, unaware that they are reacting to a past that is no longer around.

Political systems have changed as have political philosophies. Enmity has given way to partnership. New interests have ended old alliances and started new ones. We should realize these realities and rechart our course ahead. We have to update ourselves and learn what is going on. We should understand how to deal with the changes and turn in the right direction. We should start communicating with the world in the right language.

This is not an easy job, but we are not living in easy times. The time calls for a new vision and new strategies. One recent example of a country's willingness to take a look at itself is Iran. It has started to communicate in the right way and is making the right moves. We in the East are far behind in the race for progress. We must find out why, readjust our positions, and move ahead.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Karachi

This is in response to Mr. Azhar's letter regarding the MQM (Nov. 6).

There should, of course, be a distinction between the majority of MQM supporters who are law-abiding citizens and the party apparatus which wants to be above the law. Those who voted for the party now feel betrayed. Their aspirations have not been met. The policies pursued by the party are of no benefit to them. While the voters wish to improve the situation in Karachi, the politicians wish to maintain the status quo.

The primary responsibility of any political party is to improve the lives of its supporters, not to create instability and uncertainty; neither is it to hold the country hostage with threats of separation nor to create conditions of lawlessness leading to daily loss of lives. Who is responsible for this? It cannot be entirely the work of the state agencies for the simple reason that it is against the government's own interest, because Karachi is so crucial for Pakistan's economy. The MQM is trying to exploit this situation to the detriment of its supporters who live in Karachi.

It is the MQM's right to fight its case politically. It has succeeded in getting votes. However, the problem is the attitude of the bigger parties. They have refused to honor their pledges to the MQM. It is considered to have only nuisance value politically. Other parties are afraid of the consequences and backlash after years of rivalry between Mohajirs and Sindhis.

The balance of power in Sindh is such that the governor's rule seems to be the only option. The question is how this will be used to crush opponents. Does the PML genuinely wish to bring law and order to Karachi? Or is it using the political situation to punish the MQM for not supporting it?

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ference last September.

Now members of the ruling Labor Party in Wales and London are asking the same question as Prime Minister Tony Blair's lieutenants move to block the chances of two popular mavericks to head devolved governments in Wales and London.

Rhodri Morgan, a shock-haired Welsh back-bench member of Parliament, has the support of most of the Welsh Labor Party to head the country's new devolved executive next year — but not of Blair, who considers him not loyal enough to his "New Labor" vision. In London, where a city mayor will be elected in 2000, an even more "off-message" figure is threatening to capture the Labor nomination.

The Old Labor ghost stalking Blair is hard-line left-wing MP Ken Liv- ... erupted two weeks ago with the sudden disgrace of its candidate to lead its campaign for the assembly, Welsh Secretary Ron Davies.

Wales is a Labor stronghold and Davies, 52, looked a certainty to assume the title of first secretary and run the new devolved administration in Cardiff after defeating Morgan in a hard-fought inner-party battle. But Davies had to resign after being robbed at knife point after a mysterious evening stroll around a London common known as a rendezvous for gay men.

The man named by Blair to succeed him as Welsh secretary, Junior Home Office Minister Alun Michael, has been parachuted in to fill Davies's shoes. But many in the Welsh party are furious at attempts to give him the job unopposed. Morgan, more popular at the Welsh grassroots than Michael, has ... pick its top candidate. In London, moves are under way this week to ensure that all Labor candidates for the mayor's job will have to be approved by a selection panel at party headquarters, where Livingstone is persona non grata.

By contrast, the opposition Conservative Party has promised an open vote of all its members in London and has pledged there will be no backstage maneuvers to scupper the chances of the front-runner, millionaire novelist Lord Jeffrey Archer. Archer is oblivious to hints from high up in the party that his colorful reputation will harm its chances.

Livingstone, despite his far-left views, is fondly remembered by Londoners as the man who lowered public transport fares and fought a losing battle against then Prime Minister Mar- ... political wing of the Irish Republican Army.

Livingstone diplomatically blames "junior officials" in the party rather than Blair himself for trying to block him from standing. "Tony Blair has built his career on listening to members' views on one man, one vote. Now if at the last minute he dumps all that, I think it will be very embarrassing," he said. "I don't believe he will."

Blair's dilemma over Morgan and Livingstone proves to some that he has failed to accept that devolution of powers away from central government will inevitably mean decentralizing the Labor party as well. "This is a devolving government," Blair's spokesman said. But he added that Blair would like to make sure as Labor Party leader that the new jobs in Wales and London were filled by "very good people". *(R)*

Letters to the Editor

Changing times

Some of us have obviously failed to realize that we are living in a changing world. What was true two decades ago, even a few months ago, is not valid today. But there are many national leaders among us who have been repeating the same rhetoric for years and years, unaware that they are reacting to a past that is no longer around.

Political systems have changed as have political philosophies. Enmity has given way to partnership. New interests have ended old alliances and started new ones. We should realize these realities and rechart our course ahead. We have to update ourselves and learn what is going on. We should understand how to deal with the changes and turn in the right direction. We should start communicating with the world in the right language.

This is not an easy job, but we are not living in easy times. The time calls for a new vision and new strategies. One recent example of a country's willingness to take a look at itself is Iran. It has started to communicate in the right way and is making the right moves. We in the East are far behind in the race for progress. We must find out why, readjust our positions, and move ahead.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Karachi

This is in response to Mr. Azhar's letter regarding the MQM (Nov. 6).

There should, of course, be a distinction between the majority of MQM supporters who are law-abiding citizens and the party apparatus which wants to be above the law. Those who voted for the party now feel betrayed. Their aspirations have not been met. The policies pursued by the party are of no benefit to them. While the voters wish to improve the situation in Karachi, the politicians wish to maintain the status quo.

The primary responsibility of any political party is to improve the lives of its supporters, not to create instability and uncertainty; neither is it to hold the country hostage with threats of separation nor to create conditions of lawlessness leading to daily loss of lives. Who is responsible for this? It cannot be entirely the work of the state agencies for the simple reason that it is against the government's own interest, because Karachi is so crucial for Pakistan's economy. The MQM is trying to exploit this situation to the detriment of its supporters who live in Karachi.

It is the MQM's right to fight its case politically. It has succeeded in getting votes. However, the problem is the attitude of the bigger parties. They have refused to honor their pledges to the MQM. It is considered to have only nuisance value politically. Other parties are afraid of the consequences and backlash after years of rivalry between Mohajirs and Sindhis.

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(DPA)



Letters to the Editor

Common currency

Will the Arab dream of a common currency and a common market ever come true?

There is no reason why it cannot, if we really want it and work for it. Of course, it will not be easy. Apart from the tremendous amount of work that has to be done even before the idea can be discussed in a realistic manner, there has to be a reorientation of the Arab perception of themselves. Europe's achievement is not the result of a one-day dream or a one-man vision. It is the culmination of sustained effort by the leaders and people of the continent ever since World War II. The engine that sustained its movement forward was the perception of the average European that their destiny was bound together. Politicians' contributions, though great, was essentially to give a tangible form to that sense of common destiny.

The same sense of common destiny is already there in the Arab conscience. We have much more in common: shared history, language, culture, memories and so on. Our leadership should do whatever is necessary to turn that desire into reality. That some of our countries are backward or have economic problems is no reason to conclude that we have no right to move toward a common future. Many of the countries who are now members of the G-7, the grouping of the richest nations in the word, were in worse condition than we are now in. Germany and Japan are examples. The Middle East should put its age of misery behind it. It is time now to follow the right and correct direction to claim our place in the modern world and to enter the new millennium as players and movers, not as bystanders and whiners.

Hashim Ibrahim
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Dubious game

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's recent speech, in which he sought to implement Taleban-style rule in Pakistan, is not surprising, considering that he is faced with sagging popularity and growing criticism over his government's handling of various issues. Moreover, he is also bracketed with those corrupt elements in Pakistan who have siphoned off huge amounts of money into foreign banks and have milked the country dry. It is obvious that found wanting as he is in running the affairs of Pakistan, he is now attempting to find legitimacy and longevity to his rule by raising the flag of the Shariah, Taleban-style!

It is instructive to note that even the religious political parties in Pakistan have tended to shy away from Sharif's stand as they see it as a desperate attempt on his part to arrogate to himself the exclusive right to change the laws of the state and assume total power. It is unfortunate that the premier is focused only on those provisions of Islam which concern punishments and totally ignores those that emphasize social and economic justice, integrity, tolerance and quest for knowledge. He seems to be unmindful of the fact that Pakistan's sectarian complexities as well as regional and linguistic diversities do not permit him to talk about a Taleban-style rule in Pakistan.

He ignores another important point: Because of the existence of divergent schools of thought in the field of jurisprudence, the provisions of the Shariah have been open to different interpretations in Pakistan; there has never been any uniformity of opinion on the issue.

By inciting the extremist elements of a particular kind to come out to help him to enforce a controversial measure, Sharif is clearly attempting to further deepen the sectarian divide in Pakistan, fuel intolerance and thus endanger the integrity of the country.

At the international level, too, Sharif's dubious dispensations are bound to have serious ramifications particularly further alienating Pakistan's important neighbors like Iran, China and Central Asian states.

The people of Pakistan must see through the games our political leaders play for the furtherance of their selfish political goals. We must say "no" to Sharif's efforts to grab complete power by exploiting the name of our religion.

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- **1977** - Egypt's President Anwar Sadat tells Israeli Parliament in Jerusalem that Egypt seeks peace with justice.
- **1980** - A special tribunal in China begins the two-month trial of "the Gang of Four", led by Jiang Qing, chairman Mao Tse-tung's wife, for leading the 1966-1976 cultural revolution.
- **1992** - A fire at Windsor Castle destroys one of Britain's biggest draws, but rescuers help save the castle's art treasures.
- **1995** - Sri Lankan troops fight their way into the Tamil rebel stronghold of Jaffna City.
- **1996** - Republican Newt Gingrich nominated to become speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives despite an internal ethics probe into his actions.

Thought for today

No man remains quite what he was when he recognizes himself— Thomas Mann.

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1977 - Egypt's President Anwar Sadat tells Israeli Parliament in Jerusalem that Egypt seeks peace with justice.

1980 - A special tribunal in China begins the two-month trial of "the Gang of Four", led by Jiang Qing, chairman Mao Tse-tung's wife, for leading the 1966-1976 cultural revolution.

1992 - A fire at Windsor Castle destroys one of Britain's biggest draws, but rescuers help save the castle's art treasures.

1995 - Sri Lankan troops fight their way into the Tamil rebel stronghold of Jaffna City.

1996 - Republican Newt Gingrich nominated to become speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives despite an internal ethics probe into his actions.

Thought for today

No man remains quite what he was when he recognizes himself— Thomas Mann.

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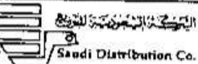
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Schroeder will be walking
rope held up by the Greens at
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will do that will be anxiously
by European unionists and
skeptics alike.

Muhammad Ab

Gas find in Shila

Two American companies
for the Ethiopian governmen
completed a project to produce
gas in the occupied Ogaden
The area is around Shilabo, just
away from the "border" betwe
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will do that will be anxiously
by European unionists and
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Gas find in Shila

Two American companies w
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The area is around Shilabo, just
away from the "border" betw
malia and Ethiopia, and in
mainly by Somali nomads. It ri
belongs to Somalia. Ethiop
joined European colonists in t
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› the BJP because of earlier exasperation with
have flocked back to the latter's ranks, giving it this
tories.

ıs if, then, Sonia Gandhi may well be on her way to
the fourth member of the Nehru-Gandhi family to
lia, even if Italian-born. Prime Minister Vajpayee
:o stay on. But that is unlikely to save him in the
'he hard-liners will do their best to ensure that the
personnel necessary to improve the economy do not
›w that public alienation is clear, there is every
:n, of the 18-party coalition starting to collapse
veight of its own internal tensions.

hat Congress is banking on and why it reckons that
need to do anything. As a policy, it makes sound
: way, the spotlight is kept on the BJP and Congress'
:ms are kept out of it.

troversy publicly for the first time on Monday, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright stopped short of publicly urging Britain to free the former U.S.-backed military dictator instead of extraditing him to Spain to stand trial for killings and torture during his 17-year rule.

But she made that preference clear when she said: "In Chile, the citizens of a democratic state are wrestling with a very difficult problem of how to balance the need for justice with the requirements of reconciliation. And I think significant respect should be given to their conclusions." Pinochet negotiated an amnesty for himself before handing over power in 1990, and despite recent hints by Chile's foreign

his bloody 1973 coup against elected Socialist President Salvador Allende and does not want its own role exposed 25 years later in a European courtroom.

A British Foreign Office official denied that the United States had lobbied for Pinochet's release. He said the issue had come up briefly in a conversation between Albright and Foreign Secretary Robin Cook on Nov. 21, and Cook had made clear it was a judicial matter. "Mrs. Albright has now stated the American government's view. We have noted that, but nothing more," the British aide said.

Home Secretary Jack Straw will decide on Dec. 9 whether to give the green light to extradition proceedings.

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MEMBER OF THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION

Beirut vulnerable to foreign a

By Jack Redden
Beirut

EIGHT years after the guns of civil war finally fell silent, Lebanon's economic renaissance remains a fragile dream vulnerable to Israeli attacks and the squabbling of its own politicians.

A day after Israeli politicians threatened to destroy the country's still-recovering infrastructure, Lebanon's Prime Minister Rafik Hariri stunned financial markets by quitting on Monday in a power struggle with the president. Hariri, driving force through six years of reconstruction, told newly installed President Emile Lahoud on Monday he would not stay under terms that appeared to undercut his authority.

"Everyone assumed," said one economist who had factored Hariri's continued presence into his forecasts. "It was discounted in every scenario built by every decision maker in this country."

"So now that there is somebody else we have to see what kind of program there will be," he added. "It will be a test to see if there is a dependency on the person of the prime minister or not. I hope we will pass the test."

The most likely successor is Selim Hoss, a veteran politician who has a doctorate in economics but is best known for being prime minister during some of the blackest periods of the 1975-90 civil war. While described as respected throughout Lebanon's fragmented society, Hoss is not a dominant personality on the scale of Hariri, the billionaire construction tycoon who guided the rebuilding of the country as if it was another mammoth contract. Hariri is also identified with stabilizing the currency, which had been collapsing before he took office in 1992. During his time in power, the Lebanese pound has actually risen in value against the dollar.

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troversy publicly for the first time on Monday, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright stopped short of publicly urging Britain to free the former U.S.-backed military dictator instead of extraditing him to Spain to stand trial for killings and torture during his 17-year rule.

But she made that preference clear when she said: "In Chile, the citizens of a democratic state are wrestling with a very difficult problem of how to balance the need for justice with the requirements of reconciliation. And I think significant respect should be given to their conclusions." Pinochet negotiated an amnesty for himself before handing over power in 1990, and despite recent hints by Chile's foreign

his bloody 1973 coup against elected Socialist President Salvador Allende and does not want its own role exposed 25 years later in a European courtroom.

A British Foreign Office official denied that the United States had lobbied for Pinochet's release. He said the issue had come up briefly in a conversation between Albright and Foreign Secretary Robin Cook on Nov. 21, and Cook had made clear it was a judicial matter. "Mrs. Albright has now stated the American government's view. We have noted that, but nothing more," the British aide said.

Home Secretary Jack Straw will decide on Dec. 9 whether to give the green light to extradition proceedings.

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MEMBER OF THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION

Beirut vulnerable to foreign a

By Jack Redden
Beirut

EIGHT years after the guns of civil war finally fell silent, Lebanon's economic renaissance remains a fragile dream vulnerable to Israeli attacks and the squabbling of its own politicians.

A day after Israeli politicians threatened to destroy the country's still-recovering infrastructure, Lebanon's Prime Minister Rafik Hariri stunned financial markets by quitting on Monday in a power struggle with the president. Hariri, driving force through six years of reconstruction, told newly installed President Emile Lahoud on Monday he would not stay under terms that appeared to undercut his authority.

"Everyone assumed," said one economist who had factored Hariri's continued presence into his forecasts. "It was discounted in every scenario built by every decision maker in this country."

"So now that there is somebody else we have to see what kind of program there will be," he added. "It will be a test to see if there is a dependency on the person of the prime minister or not. I hope we will pass the test."

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The extent of influence of former members of the guerrilla group that is blamed for genocide in the 1970s raises serious questions about the possibility of any international tribunal for crimes against humanity ever getting off the ground.

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Thousands of Khmer Rouge soldiers have switched their green Maoist uniforms for government ones since the group opted out of U.N. peace agreements that brought about elections in 1993.

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Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea are two of the three top Khmer Rouge leaders who are the main targets of any international tribunal that might be set up along the lines of those for former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

But already the new "defections" have run into snags with a top military commander in Pailin saying the two will not leave the former guerrilla zone until they get guarantees they will not be handed over to such a tribunal.

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"They broke from the Khmer Rouge, not so much because they objected to the nastiness of what was going on, but because they were next on the list of being purged."

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ABC MEMBER OF THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION

U.N. interests in the city of Aden, the government said. The authorities also said they only launched the fateful raid to free the tourists after the kidnappers started executing the hostages and pledged to kill one hostage per hour until their demands were met.

But the official version is contradicted by testimony from the hostages, said foreign diplomats and prominent local analysts. "The government is formed around ... backing to sow dissent in the more liberal and secular south.

"The problem is the government created a monster they could not control and they have come under strong pressure from Western governments to shut down militant groups," said a prominent Yemeni journalist, asking to remain anonymous. He said an agreement to merge the group into the armed ... their 24 hours in captivity — giving them fruit, biscuits and mutton, making jokes as they drove along bumpy roads and spreading blankets for them to sit on.

When the security forces launched their raid, the kidnappers did not butcher the hostages but used them as human shields in a move seen by most survivors as an attempt to force the se- ... message that kidnapping does ... "The problem is kidnapping does pay. It is the only way that many tribes get their fair share of government resources," said Saqqaf.

Yemen's heavily-armed tribes have kidnapped more than 150 foreigners in the past five years, but until this week every incident had ended without loss of life. (AFP)

mentalists. The first is that the authorities could do little as the camps w... in areas very difficult to reach. ... government's desire to maintain c... trol over the groups is given as ... second reason. It is anticipated t... these groups will attempt some kind revenge. The recent murder of western tourists may well be an ample of this revenge.

Letters to the Editor

Saudia's attitude

The article by Nourah Al-Kherejij (Jan. 1) has brought to the attention of Arab News readers the problems created by the attitude of Saudia's cabin staff. We also had faced similar problems.

Generally, when an influential person complains to Saudia's flight attendants, they try to comply even if the demand is not justifiable. But if a very legitimate complaint comes from a person who is not important or is an expatriate, the staff exercise the right to ignore. It is as though they believe that the passengers must be thankful for the opportunity to "fly Saudia" and should accept any seat given by the staff. The other option for the passengers flying domestic routes is to travel by taxi which is an ordeal that few, especially women, will choose.

I wish and hope that Saudia will take special care of female passengers according to Islamic values.

Adeela Hassan
Jeddah

Euro

We must congratulate Europe for an achievement that would have been unthinkable a few decades ago. The nations that had been on each other's throats for centuries and had attacked and counterattacked each other — on their own continent and on all the seven seas in their wars for colonies — have now one single currency.

Their hope to create a global currency system based not on dollar has become a reality. Markets, bourses, banking, commerce, trade - every economic activity anywhere in the world now has a term of reference other than dollar. A lot of work remains to be done. A lot of adjustments have to be made. In the short term, that may mean pain and inconvenience for many. However, in the end, the euro will be of benefit for the nations involved as well as for those of the Mideast and the rest of the Third World.

Hashim Ibrahim
Jeddah

Cancer Hospital

Some recent letters suggesting that Shaukat Khanum Memorial was part of a scam by Imran Khan prompted me to write of one of the most memorable experiences in my life. I was a student at Rising Public School, Samanabad. I had a tumor in my abdomen which the doctors removed through operation. After some time, I felt pain in my abdomen again. Tests revealed that I was suffering from cancer. My parents did their best for my treatment but nothing worked.

At that point, Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Center was made operational. My parents met Dr. Naheed Usmani, and I became the first registered child cancer patient of the hospital. My treatment charges were almost 200,000 rupees which were paid by the hospital out of its "Zakat Fund". I have resumed my studies as I have fully recovered by the grace of Allah Almighty and selfless shard work of the doctors and support staff of the hospital.

Memorable though this in itself was, it was not the experience I wanted to write about. It came later.

Whenever, a big project is completed, it is normally inaugurated by celebrities like ministers in this part of the world. But in the case of Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Center, it was different. I, an unknown 14-year old, am proud of having had the honor of inaugurating the only hospital of its kind in the world. It was Imran's decision. He is a different kind of person.

It is only Imran's continuos and dedicated hard work that has made this project a success. This is a feat which even the millionaires of the country did not dare even to conceive.

I plead to all those who have a personal grudge against Imran to keep it personal and not to throw mud on the hospital. If you can't do good to others, at least, don't stop others from doing good. This hospital is the only ray of hope for poor cancer patients in Pakistan. We have to keep it going.

Sumerah Yusaf
Lahore, Pakistan

U.S.-British council

It is high time that serious thought is given to renaming the U.N. Security Council. It wouldn't be out of place to name it as the United States-British Council. Of late, the Council's approach toward America and Britain has become very different from that toward other countries. A few months ago, the United States resorted to unnecessary missile attacks on Afghanistan and Sudan on the ground of mere suspicion that those countries were involved in the bombing of American Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Now it is known that the Sudanese target was just what it had claimed to be — a pharmaceutical plant.

The recent air raids on Iraq were carried out by the United States just to divert the attention of the world from the internal political mess connected to the sex scandals involving Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky. The Security Council was not even consulted before these attacks were launched.

Any common man knows that air raids on civilian and military targets will not solve the problem of weapons of mass destruction. It must to be solved by using the good will of all parties involved with the fair and unbiased leadership of the U.N. secretary-general.

It is painful to see discrimination by the U.N. Security Council. If any Third World or developing country carries out a routine army and equipment-checking exercise, we find the whole world standing up to condemn their actions and subsequently sanctions are imposed on them. This is only because of the fact that these countries do not have any say in the Security Council affairs. The time has come for all peace-loving and developing countries to wake up and get together to make the U.N. Security Council a free, fair and effective world body and not an organization to serve the interests of the Untied States and Britain.

Pran Raina
Jeddah

Simple graft

This is in reference to "Questionable Business Practices" (Islam in Perspective, Jan. 1). This businessman knows of no company policy anywhere in the world that allows its purchasing agents to extract commissions from vendors and suppliers. Company management, civil law as well as Shariah would consider this corruption and graft, no matter how pervasive and common a practice it may be.

UA Ben-Musa
Alkhobar



Sunday, January 3, 1999

1739 - Convention of the Pardo to s... the Anglo-Spanish disputes opens.

1778 - Palatinate recognizes Austri... claim to Lower Bavaria.

1795 - Secret treaty between Russi... and Austria for third partiti... of Poland.

1815 - Austria, Britain and France form defensive alliance agai... Prussia and Russia.

1868 - Shogunate is abolished and Meiji dynasty restored in Ja... pan.

1921 - First Indian Parliament me...

1941 - Italian forces surrender at Bardia, Libya, in World W... II.

1990 - Gen. Manuel Noriega surrenders to U.S. troops in Pa... ama and is flown to Florida... face drug charges there.

1991 - U.S. President George Bush... vites Iraq to Geneva for fin... attempt at diplomatic solu... to Gulf crisis before Jan. 1... U.N. deadline.

1997 - Italian financier Giancarlo Parretti flees the United St... ahead of his sentencing for perjury and evidence tampering in the case that cost him control of MGM studi...

1998 - U.N. headquarters hit by a rocket attack. Iraq conden... it as an attempt to sabotag... relations with U.N weapon... spectors.

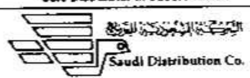
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Nor can goodness and evil be equ... Repel evil with what is bet... then will he between whom and thee was hatred beco... it were thy friend and inti...
— The Qur'an

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: SR900 (U.S. $241)
AIRMAIL POSTAGE INCLUDED
OR THE EQUIVALENT IN OTHER CURRENCIES
Printed at Al-Madina Printing and Publishing Co. Jeddah

ABC MEMBER OF THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION



U.N. interests in the city of Aden, the government said. The authorities also said they only launched the fateful raid to free the tourists after the kidnappers started executing the hostages and pledged to kill one hostage per hour until their demands were met.

But the official version is contradicted by testimony from the hostages, said foreign diplomats and prominent local analysts. "The government is formed around ... backing to sow dissent in the more liberal and secular south.

"The problem is the government created a monster they could not control and they have come under strong pressure from Western governments to shut down militant groups," said a prominent Yemeni journalist, asking to remain anonymous. He said an agreement to merge the group into the armed

their 24 hours in captivity — giving them fruit, biscuits and mutton, making jokes as they drove along bumpy roads and spreading blankets for them to sit on.

When the security forces launched their raid, the kidnappers did not butcher the hostages but used them as human shields in a move seen by most survivors as an attempt to force the se-

message that kidnapping does ...

"The problem is kidnapping does pay. It is the only way that many tribes get their fair share of government resources," said Saqqaf.

Yemen's heavily-armed tribes have kidnapped more than 150 foreigners in the past five years, but until this week every incident had ended without loss of life. (AFP)

mentalists. The first is that the authorities could do little as the camps w... in areas very difficult to reach. ... government's desire to maintain c... trol over the groups is given as ... second reason. It is anticipated t... these groups will attempt some kind revenge. The recent murder of western tourists may well be an ample of this revenge.

Letters to the Editor

Saudia's attitude

The article by Nourah Al-Kherejij (Jan. 1) has brought to the attention of Arab News readers the problems created by the attitude of Saudia's cabin staff. We also had faced similar problems.

Generally, when an influential person complains to Saudia's flight attendants, they try to comply even if the demand is not justifiable. But if a very legitimate complaint comes from a person who is not important or is an expatriate, the staff exercise the right to ignore. It is as though they believe that the passengers must be thankful for the opportunity to "fly Saudia" and should accept any seat given by the staff. The other option for the passengers flying domestic routes is to travel by taxi which is an ordeal that few, especially women, will choose.

I wish and hope that Saudia will take special care of female passengers according to Islamic values.

Adeela Hassan
Jeddah

Euro

We must congratulate Europe for an achievement that would have been unthinkable a few decades ago. The nations that had been on each other's throats for centuries and had attacked and counterattacked each other — on their own continent and on all the seven seas in their wars for colonies — have now one single currency.

Their hope to create a global currency system based not on dollar has become a reality. Markets, bourses, banking, commerce, trade — every economic activity anywhere in the world now has a term of reference other than dollar. A lot of work remains to be done. A lot of adjustments have to be made. In the short term, that may mean pain and inconvenience for many. However, in the end, the euro will be of benefit for the nations involved as well as for those of the Mideast and the rest of the Third World.

Hashim Ibrahim
Jeddah

Cancer Hospital

Some recent letters suggesting that Shaukat Khanum Memorial was part of a scam by Imran Khan prompted me to write of one of the most memorable experiences in my life. I was a student at Rising Public School, Samanabad. I had a tumor in my abdomen which the doctors removed through operation. After some time, I felt pain in my abdomen again. Tests revealed that I was suffering from cancer. My parents did their best for my treatment but nothing worked.

At that point, Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Center was made operational. My parents met Dr. Naheed Usmani, and I became the first registered child cancer patient of the hospital. My treatment charges were almost 200,000 rupees which were paid by the hospital out of its "Zakat Fund". I have resumed my studies as I have fully recovered by the grace of Allah Almighty and selfless shard work of the doctors and support staff of the hospital.

Memorable though this in itself was, it was not the experience I wanted to write about. It came later.

Whenever, a big project is completed, it is normally inaugurated by celebrities like ministers in this part of the world. But in the case of Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Center, it was different. I, an unknown 14-year old, am proud of having had the honor of inaugurating the only hospital of its kind in the world. It was Imran's decision. He is a different kind of person.

It is only Imran's continuos and dedicated hard work that has made this project a success. This is a feat which even the millionaires of the country did not dare even to conceive.

I plead to all those who have a personal grudge against Imran to keep it personal and not to throw mud on the hospital. If you can't do good to others, at least, don't stop others from doing good. This hospital is the only ray of hope for poor cancer patients in Pakistan. We have to keep it going.

Sumerah Yusaf
Lahore, Pakistan

U.S.-British council

It is high time that serious thought is given to renaming the U.N. Security Council. It wouldn't be out of place to name it as the United States-British Council. Of late, the Council's approach toward America and Britain has become very different from that toward other countries. A few months ago, the United States resorted to unnecessary missile attacks on Afghanistan and Sudan on the ground of mere suspicion that those countries were involved in the bombing of American Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Now it is known that the Sudanese target was just what it had claimed to be — a pharmaceutical plant.

The recent air raids on Iraq were carried out by the United States just to divert the attention of the world from the internal political mess connected to the sex scandals involving Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky. The Security Council was not even consulted before these attacks were launched.

Any common man knows that air raids on civilian and military targets will not solve the problem of weapons of mass destruction. It must to be solved by using the good will of all parties involved with the fair and unbiased leadership of the U.N. secretary-general.

It is painful to see discrimination by the U.N. Security Council. If any Third World or developing country carries out a routine army and equipment-checking exercise, we find the whole world standing up to condemn their actions and subsequently sanctions are imposed on them. This is only because of the fact that these countries do not have any say in the Security Council affairs. The time has come for all peace-loving and developing countries to wake up and get together to make the U.N. Security Council a free, fair and effective world body and not an organization to serve the interests of the Untied States and Britain.

Pran Raina
Jeddah

Simple graft

This is in reference to "Questionable Business Practices" (Islam in Perspective, Jan. 1). This businessman knows of no company policy anywhere in the world that allows its purchasing agents to extract commissions from vendors and suppliers. Company management, civil law as well as Shariah would consider this corruption and graft, no matter how pervasive and common a practice it may be.

UA Ben-Musa
Alkhobar



Sunday, January 3, 1999

- **1739** - **Convention of the Pardo to s... tle Anglo-Spanish disputes opens.**
- **1778** - **Palatinate recognizes Austri... claim to Lower Bavaria.**
- **1795** - **Secret treaty between Russi... and Austria for third partiti... of Poland.**
- **1815** - **Austria, Britain and France form defensive alliance agai... Prussia and Russia.**
- **1868** - **Shogunate is abolished and Meiji dynasty restored in Ja... pan.**
- **1921** - **First Indian Parliament me...**
- **1941** - **Italian forces surrender at Bardia, Libya, in World W... II.**
- **1990** - **Gen. Manuel Noriega surrenders to U.S. troops in Pa... ama and is flown to Florida... face drug charges there.**
- **1991** - **U.S. President George Bush... vites Iraq to Geneva for fin... attempt at diplomatic solu... to Gulf crisis before Jan. 1... U.N. deadline.**
- **1997** - **Italian financier Giancarlo Parretti flees the United S... ahead of his sentencing for perjury and evidence tampering in the case that cost him control of MGM studi...**
- **1998** - **U.N. headquarters hit by a rocket attack. Iraq conden... it as an attempt to sabotag... relations with U.N weapon... spectors.**

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Poll violence in Sri Lanka creates uncertain

By Rahul Sharma
Colombo

VIOLENCE marred provincial elections in Sri Lanka this week and analysts said on Tuesday that if the trend continued in further polls this year it could dampen investor enthusiasm and hurt local markets.

Any renewal of violence at five provincial council polls expected later this year would hurt the country, they said. "Violence and election-related incidents have reached an unprecedented level and that will have a very negative impact on the market," said Sarinda Unamboowe, director of the local John Keells Stock Brokers. "It shows desperation on part of the political parties and reflects poorly on the country," he added. Colombo's all-share index fell 5.39 points, or 0.92 percent, to close at 580.12 on Tuesday as the ruling People's Alliance swept the Northwestern Provincial Council elections that were marred by violence and electoral malpractices.

Brokers said the market fell because foreign funds had eased out on worries over declines in regional markets. The election was seen as an indicator of public sentiment about the government's performance in the run-up to presidential and parliamentary polls due in 2000. "We are possibly looking at five more elections. There is probably going to be more negative sentiment," Unamboowe said.

Said Rajiv Casichetty, head of research at CT Smith Stock Brokers: "If they (the government) stagger the remaining provincial elections that might hurt the market." He said a flare-up in violence in the run-up to the five elections would not be good for Sri Lanka. "People will get frightened and might not want to take a risk and come to the country," he said.

Sri Lanka's stock exchange has been hit in the past by mostly external factors, but in the past week local investors have stayed on the sidelines awaiting the result of Monday's election. Others said that while extended elections might dampen foreign investment in the stock market and infrastructure, a win by the ruling coalition would mean the continuation of economic policies. "An international investor would probably compare the political stability in Sri Lanka with that in India or Pakistan — to that extent we are safe," said Panduka Ambanpola, head of research at Jardine Fleming HNB. "Over the next six months we will see many other elections.

If the government keeps winning, it does not have to compromise on the fiscal discipline," he said, adding that a loss might push the government to introduce populist measures to attract votes.

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Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Death penalty

I disagree with Mr. Martin Wood (Jan. 23) that the death penalty is not a deterrent to murder.

The real reason why the death penalty has not proved effective in checking crime in some countries is that executions are not carried out in public. Had it been done in public for everyone to see and feel, it would have worked wonders.

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Purveyors of hatred

That the culture of hatred and religious sectarianism continues to hold sway in Pakistan is demonstrated by the latest incident in which at least five people of a rival religious group were gunned down in a small city of the country. True, such retaliatory murders are the handiwork of a small minority of "religious" zealots who get some sort of a sadistic pleasure in brutalizing the society.

But the alarming thing is that these terrorists have the ability to strike at will, anywhere, any time. That signifies an unacceptable extent of the erosion of the authority of the state to take on such mass murderers in a decisive and concerted manner. More worrying is the fact that these purveyors of hatred are fully armed with all types of guns, thanks to the Afghan war.

It is well-known that many among this lunatic fringe had fought along with their Afghan brethren against the Communists. But unfortunately, they are now employing their battle-hardened killing skills against their co-religionists in Pakistan. It is also a known fact that many members of rival sects are the products of some shady seminaries in the country which teach nothing but hatred for other religious sects. The government's response to the acts of violence perpetrated by such men with twisted minds is not adequate enough to control it.

The sectarian murders in the country cannot be stopped unless the government adopts sustained and serious measures to eradicate it. That should also include a series of meetings between leaders of rival religious groups with a view to enhancing their awareness of the problems that sectarian politics has unleashed in Pakistan.

Tasnim A. Khan
Dhahran

Proud to be in Pakistan

This is in reference to the letters of Paraqash Muller (Jan. 11), Shazia Qadir (Jan. 12) and Haroon Basha (Jan. 12). They all are very curious about what's happening in Pakistan, but forgetting the condition in their own country where Hindu-Christian riots are every-day occurrences, where Muslims cannot get good education or jobs, where Bal Thackeray is ruling over the Muslims, where a mosque can easily be just erased out of existence, where there is a tussle between Hyderabadi and Bihari Muslims.

Only India is responsible for the riots and killings in Pakistan. India conspired on provincial basis in Karachi and on sectarian basis in other parts of Pakistan. We Pakistanis are identified as Pakistanis and we all are proud to be called Pakistanis. We all are very happy to be in an independent Islamic state and indebted to our forefathers for their wise decision to migrate to Pakistan.

Ms. Fatima Aslam
Jeddah

Hindutva mold

Though India's constitution defines it as a secular country, our politicians have, for their petty gains, mixed religion with politics. In the last days of her rule, Mrs. Indira Gandhi began to project herself as a devout Hindu. After the Shah Bano controversy, Rajiv Gandhi allowed the opening of the Babri Masjid just to please the extremist fringe of Hindus. Rashtriya Swayamsevek Sangh (RSS) and its sister organizations have taken full advantage of this situation. Poisoning the minds of the masses in the name of religion, they have captured power, riding the crest of a wave of communal intolerance.

Since Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power, it has tried to destroy the secular fabric of the country and turn India into a pure Hindu nation. There is a concerted campaign to remake the country in the Hindutva mold. The government has packed the History Council of India with its communal "intellectuals" to re... history according to the dictates o... RSS and tried to make compulsor... singing of Vande Mataram and ... raswati Vandana in the school... BJP-ruled states.

The RSS has demanded that In... Muslims and Christians should a... Hindu culture to become "true ... dians". Vishwa Hindu Paris... (VHP), Bajrang Dal and other s... organizations of the RSS are ten... izing ministers. They have forc... several prayer halls of Christia... manhandled them and dishono... nuns.

But, instead of punishing the ... leaders of the BJP and other organi... tions holding respected posts in cen... and state governments have open... supported vandalism. In Gujarat, t... prime minister himself had assur... minorities full protection, but co... tinued to be attacked. It seems that t... central government has given a gre... signal to these organizations to terro... ize minorities.

Babri Masjid was demolished in th... presence of top BJP leaders; the cu... prits are still free. Two thousand Mus... lims were butchered and their propert... worth billions of rupees were looted i... Bombay. The Sri Krishna Commissio... report has accused Shiv Sena chief Bal ... Thackeray of being the main culprit, ... but no step has been taken to punish ... him. The Maharashtra government has ... rejected the report and the prime minister has endorsed that action. In the name of Hinduism, these forces have established a reign of terror in the country with the full protection of the central government.

All these have made the minorities feel alienated and insecure. In such a situation, it would be only natural for them to seek the path of violence to secure their survival. That will be a dangerous course for all. All right-thinking people of the country must come forward to prevent bigots from hijacking Hinduism. Otherwise, the country will disintegrate.

A. Salam

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Hindutva mold

Though India's constitution defines it as a secular country, our politicians have, for their petty gains, mixed religion with politics. In the last days of her rule, Mrs. Indira Gandhi began to project herself as a devout Hindu. After the Shah Bano controversy, Rajiv Gandhi allowed the opening of the Babri Masjid just to please the extremist fringe of Hindus. Rashtriya Swayamsevek Sangh (RSS) and its sister organizations have taken full advantage of this situation. Poisoning the minds of the masses in the name of religion, they have captured power, riding the crest of a wave of communal intolerance.

Since Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power, it has tried to destroy the secular fabric of the country and turn India into a pure Hindu nation. There is a concerted campaign to remake the country in the Hindutva mold. The government has packed the History Council of India with its communal "intellectuals" to re... history according to the dictates o... RSS and tried to make compulsor... singing of Vande Mataram and ... raswati Vandana in the school... BJP-ruled states.

The RSS has demanded that In... Muslims and Christians should a... Hindu culture to become "true ... dians". Vishwa Hindu Paris... (VHP), Bajrang Dal and other s... organizations of the RSS are ten... izing ministers. They have forc... several prayer halls of Christia... manhandled them and dishonu... nuns.

But, instead of punishing the ... leaders of the BJP and other organi... tions holding respected posts in cent... and state governments have oper... supported vandalism. In Gujarat, t... prime minister himself had assur... minorities full protection, but co... tinued to be attacked. It seems that t... central government has given a gre... signal to these organizations to terro... ize minorities.

Babri Masjid was demolished in th... presence of top BJP leaders; the cu... prits are still free. Two thousand Mus... lims were butchered and their propert... worth billions of rupees were looted i... Bombay. The Sri Krishna Commissio... report has accused Shiv Sena chief Bal ... Thackeray of being the main culprit, but no step has been taken to punish him. The Maharashtra government has rejected the report and the prime minister has endorsed that action. In the name of Hinduism, these forces have established a reign of terror in the country with the full protection of the central government.

All these have made the minorities feel alienated and insecure. In such a situation, it would be only natural for them to seek the path of violence to secure their survival. That will be a dangerous course for all. All right-thinking people of the country must come forward to prevent bigots from hijacking Hinduism. Otherwise, the country will disintegrate.

A. Salam

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Growth of fascist movements jolt

By Gareth Jones
Moscow

YOUTHS sporting Nazi-style armbands and shouting ultra- nationalist slogans have jolted Russia's political elite into declaring a new campaign against political ex- tremism.

But commentators say Russia's rul- ers have only themselves to blame for the growth of such fascist movements and said the latest crackdown might prove counterproductive. "Fascism is a sickness of the whole society. The best way of combating it is better gov- ernment," said Sergei Markov, head of the Institute for Political Studies. "If people believed their rulers really wanted to root out crime and corrup- tion, they would not be drawn to fascist solutions."

Earlier, a team of senior ministers and Kremlin aides working on an anti- extremism program announced they would submit proposals to the Cabinet by the end of the month. They were reacting in part to a march last Sunday by several dozen Nazi-saluting sup- porters of ultranationalist Alexander Barkashov's Russian National Unity (RNE) group.

The RNE is a semimilitary or- ganization which calls for a dictat- orship based on the dominance of eth- nic Russians. Its members are mostly younger men and women, unlike many Russian protest groups which tend to be dominated by older people nostalgic for Soviet rule.

The activists of the RNE wear dis- tinctive black uniforms, wear a symbol strongly reminiscent of the Nazi swas- tika and make Nazi-style salutes. The group describes itself as "national so- cialist" — the designation used by the Nazis.

On Tuesday newspapers devoted their front pages to the RNE's march, noting the grim irony of the use of Nazi symbols in a country which lost many millions of people in World War II. "Our security forces clearly don't con- sider swastikas and Nazi salutes of- fensive to the citizens of our c said the liberal Izvestia dail Russian fascists have betray fathers and grandfathers wh quished Hitler's Germany."

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Arab News

International newspaper published by
Research & Publishing Company

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AND MUHAMMAD ALI HAFIZ

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Chosse 26, Kor.1kv. 10, Moscow.

SCRIPTION: SR900 (U.S. $241) L POSTAGE INCLUDED ALENT IN OTHER CURRENCIES Printing and Publishing Co. Jeddah

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Wailers and workers

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No nation or people have achieved anything without intelligent planning and hard work. For Arab countries too, there is no other choice. If they want to improve their living standards, they have to put their brains and bodies to hard labor. And they should not give up at the first obstacle they encounter, shouting "conspiracy". Problems will be there. Those who survive are those who expect and overcome them, not those who fear them. This is true at national and individual levels, and in every field of human activity — from national development to personal business, from education to sports.

Those who complain about lack of opportunities are deceiving themselves and others. Opportunities are there, but they will be found only by those who are willing to look. There is no point in waiting for the government or the world to present us with opportunities on a silver platter. We must take charge of our future.

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Looking at the euphoria the fol- lowed after Pakistan's Madras victory, one wonders whether it was a game of cricket or a religious war. I can im- agine the fate of the Pakistani players, had they been in a situation similar to the one the Indians are now in, in their home country. Many inquiry com- mittees would have been set up.

It is time they learned something from their Indian counterparts in gen- eral and the Madras crowd in par- ticular. It is their victory at the end. There can be one Bal Thackeray and a few of his followers in India, but even a common man on the street, let alone the elite and educated class, know it's just a game and reacts accordingly. The irony of the fact is, all those who overwhelmingly rejoice in victory, get a sword in their hands, start sounding like Thackeray, and go after the head of the players once they lose to India. A true winner should be equally graceful in defeat.

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These people don't realize that Altaf has been making fools of them from day one. Innocent people are dying in the streets of Karachi every day be- cause of him, while he enjoys a lavish life in the U.K. The poor guy has to go to work in the morning, prepare his meals, do laundry etc., etc. and then give out interviews over the telephone, paying for all from his pocket! He is just sacrificing his life for the sake of his party.

And speaking of parties, they are born in Pakistan like mosquitoes in rainy season: Sipaha-e this, Tehrik-e that and so on. It's making people sick just to read about them.

The thing that hurts most is that you still find people who support Altaf and the likes of him. Will somebody give just one good reason for this? They have done nothing but to loot ordinary Pakistanis and have them killed in the streets later.

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The U.S. is pouring fuel on the fire in all corners of the world to serve its

guarantees for the Serbs who will wish to stay there. The Kosovo Liberation Army has, however, thus far set its face against anything less than complete freedom from Serbian rule. If both parties can be persuaded to move from their extreme positions, there is plenty of middle ground on which a compromise can be hammered out. But it is agreeing to meet somewhere near half-way which is the hard part. If both sides are conscious that they are playing to a gallery over their mobile phones, on a virtually hourly basis, no serious negotiations can take place. The chief mediator has appealed to both sides to stop using the portable phones to leak information. Hopefully, it will be seen by everyone that it will be sensible to comply.

There is, however, another worrying development, this time from the organizers of the talks. They themselves have been busy briefing the press, if not on the actual negotiations, at least on the mood and atmosphere in which the talks are being conducted. Thus, one senior official describing the long hours of waiting while small points were hammered out behind closed doors, referred yesterday to "Chateau Fatigue".

He and his colleagues may indeed be bored and frustrated by the process, even after just three days, but it is neither their place nor their business to announce this to the press. Their job is a tough one, which is better conducted without comment to outsiders. In briefing in this manner, the official was behaving no better than the Serbs and ethnical Albanians whom he and his colleagues had earlier criticized. The world's media would do as well pull back and wait patiently for real agreement to emerge.

Seeking some story, any story, before any real news emerges is pointless and, indeed, could turn out to be destructive. A little more responsible behavior all round at Chateau Rambouillet would not go amiss.

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A daily International newspaper published by
Saudi Research & Publishing Company

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: SR900 (U.S. $241)
AIRMAIL POSTAGE INCLUDED
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As a [...] wore Nehru shirts, sandals, long hair, beads and — corny though the image may now seem — flowers in his hair (the uniform of that decade's rebels), I welcomed the advent of the politically correct age in the late 1980s, if for no reason other than as an antidote to the poison of the Reagan era.

Now I'm beginning to have my doubts. "Politically correct", originally an umbrella term that defined what is okay to say, and what is a no-no, in civilized discourse, has now been taken to its lunatic extremes, with its adherents becoming a kind of semantic police.

Take the case, three weeks ago, of David Howard, an aide to the new mayor of Washington, who was made to resign (read, fired) because he had said, in a hapless moment, that he would use his budget "in a niggardly manner."

Niggardly, of course, is a perfectly legitimate word, with etymological roots in old Swedish, that simply means to be parsimonious, stingy or frugal. Howard clearly had meant to say that he would disburse his funds in a carefully studied fashion. Unfortunately for the mayoral aide, who is white, "niggardly" sounded too much like the racial slur associated with the N word, and thus his fate was sealed.

The resulting debate, which became national after the story broke, finding its way to the Op-Ed pages and the talk shows, went beyond the incident and touched on the issue of political correctness itself.

as I see it (and correctionists will scoff here), lie in American guilt, an attempt by American society to flagellate itself at the way it has, in its short history, cynically treated African Americans, and equally cynically meddled in the affairs of helpless Third World peoples, from Vietnam to Palestine.

Especially on campuses nowadays, where most professors are baby boomers who had come of age during the sixties and absorbed that era's political idealism and activist commitments, political correctness is su-

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Fawaz Turki

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Letters to

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guarantees for the Serbs who will wish to stay there. The Kosovo Liberation Army has, however, thus far set its face against anything less than complete freedom from Serbian rule. If both parties can be persuaded to move from their extreme positions, there is plenty of middle ground on which a compromise can be hammered out. But it is agreeing to meet somewhere near halfway which is the hard part. If both sides are conscious that they are playing to a gallery over their mobile phones, on a virtually hourly basis, no serious negotiations can take place. The chief mediator has appealed to both sides to stop using the portable phones to leak information. Hopefully, it will be seen by everyone that it will be sensible to comply.

There is, however, another worrying development, this time from the organizers of the talks. They themselves have been busy briefing the press, if not on the actual negotiations, at least on the mood and atmosphere in which the talks are being conducted. Thus, one senior official describing the long hours of waiting while small points were hammered out behind closed doors, referred yesterday to "Chateau Fatigue".

He and his colleagues may indeed be bored and frustrated by the process, even after just three days, but it is neither their place nor their business to announce this to the press. Their job is a tough one, which is better conducted without comment to outsiders. In briefing in this manner, the official was behaving no better than the Serbs and ethnical Albanians whom he and his colleagues had earlier criticized. The world's media would do as well pull back and wait patiently for real agreement to emerge.

Seeking some story, any story, before any real news emerges is pointless and, indeed, could turn out to be destructive. A little more responsible behavior all round at Chateau Rambouillet would not go amiss.

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A daily international newspaper published by
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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: SR900 (U.S. $241)
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ABC MEMBER OF THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION

A[...] wore Nehru shirts, sandals, long hair, beads and — corny though the image may now seem — flowers in his hair (the uniform of that decade's rebels). I welcomed the advent of the politically correct age in the late 1980s, if for no reason other than as an antidote to the poison of the Reagan era.

Now I'm beginning to have my doubts. "Politically correct", originally an umbrella term that defined what is okay to say, and what is a no-no, in civilized discourse, has now been taken to its lunatic extremes, with its adherents becoming a kind of semantic police.

Take the case, three weeks ago, of David Howard, an aide to the new mayor of Washington, who was made to resign (read, fired) because he had said, in a hapless moment, that he would use his budget "in a niggardly manner."

Niggardly, of course, is a perfectly legitimate word, with etymological roots in old Swedish, that simply means to be parsimonious, stingy or frugal. Howard clearly had meant to say that he would disburse his funds in a carefully studied fashion. Unfortunately for the mayoral aide, who is white, "niggardly" sounded too much like the racial slur associated with the N word, and thus his fate was sealed.

The resulting debate, which became national after the story broke, finding its way to the Op-Ed pages and the talk shows, went beyond the incident and touched on the issue of political correctness itself.

[...] as I see it (and correctionists will scoff here), lie in American guilt, an attempt by American society to flagellate itself at the way it has, in its short history, cynically treated African Americans, and equally cynically meddled in the affairs of helpless Third World peoples, from Vietnam to Palestine.

Especially on campuses nowadays, where most professors are baby boomers who had come of age during the sixties and absorbed that era's political idealism and activist commitments, political correctness is supreme. In the view of many of these professors, teaching the Western intellectual tradition in their classes is a mere exercise in promoting a Eurocentric view of the world at the cost of non-European paradigms. "The canon of great Western literature was created by Anglican (expletive deleted) to underwrite their social class," said Stanley Hauerwas, a prominent scholar at Duke University Divinity School.

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AIPAC, Moskowitz, Kissing...

LIFE didn't totally stop in the United States during the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton. Here are some Middle East-related developments in recent weeks that may have been overlooked outside Washington.

• Former Illinois Democratic senator, Paul Simon, revealed in his newly published autobiography how he came to run against former Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Charles Percy in 1984. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Israel's principal Washington lobby, has long considered Republican Percy's defeat by Democrat Simon a high water mark of its influence, but Simon had not previously acknowledged AIPAC's key role in his campaign. Simon, who was in the House of Representatives at the time, said that first two Jewish "longtime friends, Bob Schrayer and Stan Weinberger," begged him to run (read pledged financial support) against Percy, who had voted to permit Boeing to sell Saudi Arabia AWACS aircraft (which later served the U.S. and Saudi-led Coalition so well in the Gulf War) and also had suggested that not only were there Palestinians, but also that they had "rights".

Then, Simon wrote, he received a call from "a nationally respected Jewish leader from Chicago, Bob Asher" (a prominent AIPAC board member), and the rest is history. It was the second such AIPAC-funded electoral defeat of a chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee, since AIPAC previously had helped Republican Dale Bumpers defeat Democrat J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. AIPAC has long used the threat of such successful campaigns, as well as the defeat of Sen. Roger Jepson of Iowa, who also voted for the AWACS sale, to keep other members of Congress in line.

• The Palestinian cabinet has accused American multimillionaire and financier of Israeli extremism Irving Moskowitz of "waging a campaign of colonization and gross provocation which represents a direct challenge to the Palestinian people." Moskowitz got his financial start buying and selling hospitals and then, with financial contributions, acquired control of the city council of a whole town, tiny Hawaiian Gardens, on the fringes of Los Angeles. There he has built a bingo parlor empire to help finance the Jewish nationalist Ateret Cohanim movement, which seeks to Judaize Arab East Jerusalem. Moskowitz financed the final phase of a tunnel dug along the foundations of Al Aqsa, Islam's third holiest site in the world, and was present when Israeli troops opened it to connect the Jewish and Arab quarters, setting off Israeli-Palestinian rioting and gunfights in which more than 60 persons were killed. In early January, he visited Israel to line up election campaign financing for right-wing extremist candidates.

New York state assemblyman Dov Hikind from Brooklyn, traveling with Moskowitz, said he had no doubt that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was the right man to support.

INSIGHT



Richard H. Curtiss

In Hebron, the Moskowitz group was greeted with music and dance by Jewish settlers. "These are people who love us and help us, they are real lovers of Israel," said Jewish settler Baruch Marzel. "They can't sleep at night if they don't give money to Hebron."

Israeli Knesset member Yossi Sarid, who leads the dovish Meretz party, said "the Moskowitz phenomenon is both frightening and disgusting. The very thought that a man who makes his money from betting parlors is also gambling with our fate fills me with apprehension."

Accompanying Moskowitz on his January trip to Israel and the occupied territories was pro-Israel extremist Republican Congressman Michael Forbes, whom the American Task Force for Palestine (ATFP) now calls a "rogue congressman." A... that both Moskowitz and F... heckled by Israeli peace a... they toured the Ras al-Amo... East Jerusalem, where ... hopes to finance a new Jew... ment this spring. Said ATFP... Director Michael Sanfor... than going to Israel to ur... abide by their signed co... Congressman Forbes has g... port their violations of th... for 'coexistence' by enco... building of Jewish-only se... illegally occupied territory ... was confiscated from Pal... not only ironic, it's just pl...

David Tenenbaum, a... Jewish engineer at the U... plant in Southfield, was ... for 10 months by the FB... 1997 on suspicion that he ... information on armor sys... missile countermeasure... fighting vehicles and H... rael. The U.S. governme... investigation last July, ... nenbaum has filed a la... $120 million in damage... tice Department and se... His lawyer said Tenenb... faith might have made ... what the lawyer calle... oriented persecution."

• Former U.S. Sec... Henry Kissinger, who o... Israeli government to ... Bank to the media an... Palestinian intifada "... possible—overwhelmi... and rapidly," and sug... the Iraq-Iran war that ... do nothing to halt it, ... and worse. At a N... raising dinner organiz...

Letters to the E...

Kurdish tragedy

The tragedy of the Kurdish people is an all too familiar one: a people denied their right to identity. Other ethnic, cultural, religious and national groups in various countries have suffered the same unfair treatment from their governments. Eventually, they all had come into conflict with those in power, because they had come to the conclusion that fight was the only way to get their rights.

The government of Turkey refuses to tolerate anything connected with Arab or Islam. Necmettin Erbakan's government was dismissed because he had a program based on Islam. It does not want to live in peace with the Kurdish people and give them their rights.

Abdullah Ocalan's demand is that the Kurds be given their rights as a people.

Hashim Ibrahim Hashim
Jeddah

Political game

There have been many letters on Kashmir recently, all emotionally pleading for a solution to the festering problem. However, we can be certain that no political leader on either side of the border is likely to pay any attention to the pleas. The reason: The leaders of India and Pakistan are playing a political game in the name of Kashmir.

Neither of the countries has any problem dealing with each other in the international arena. As for the people of India and Pakistan, both wish a peaceful situation and cordial relations. But our leaders cannot afford that. "The threat from across the border" is their trump card. Without that under control their internal problems. They are not worried about the long-term consequences of their game on the nations. The economies of the two already-poor nations are collapsing. If Pakistan and India do not end this political game, there is no hope of development for them.

Of course, political games are in no way something peculiar to India and Pakistan. They are playing it in Iraq, Bosnia, Palestine, Kosovo — everywhere. The rulers who forget their countries' basic problems of unemployment, welfare, education, health and agricultural development are the enemies of their people, not friends.

K.S. Chandran
Alkhobar

DVD players

I also have had experiences similar to what Mr. Ravi Kumar wrote about in his letter on DVD players (Feb. 16).

When I visited one reputed electronic shop in Jeddah, the salesmen informed me that DVD's disc were not still available anywhere in the Kingdom.

Last year, while I was in India on leave, I bought some VCD audio CD and DVDs in New Delhi's Connaught Place. DVD, LD, CD and VCDs are available in all major cities of India.

There is not much point in selling high-priced electronic gadgets without making available their indispensable

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: SR900 (U.S. $241)
AIRMAIL POSTAGE INCLUDED
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Printed at Al-Madina Printing and Publishing Co. Jeddah

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AIPAC, Moskowitz, Kissing...

LIFE didn't totally stop in the United States during the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton. Here are some Middle East-related developments in recent weeks that may have been overlooked outside Washington.

• Former Illinois Democratic senator, Paul Simon, revealed in his newly published autobiography how he came to run against former Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Charles Percy in 1984. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Israel's principal Washington lobby, has long considered Republican Percy's defeat by Democrat Simon a high water mark of its influence, but Simon had not previously acknowledged AIPAC's key role in his campaign. Simon, who was in the House of Representatives at the time, said that first two Jewish "long-time friends, Bob Schrayer and Stan Weinberger," begged him to run (read pledged financial support) against Percy, who had voted to permit Boeing to sell Saudi Arabia AWACS aircraft (which later served the U.S. and Saudi-led Coalition so well in the Gulf War) and also had suggested that not only were there Palestinians, but also that they had "rights".

Then, Simon wrote, he received a call from "a nationally respected Jewish leader from Chicago, Bob Asher" (a prominent AIPAC board member), and the rest is history. It was the second such AIPAC-funded electoral defeat of a chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee, since AIPAC previously had helped Republican Dale Bumpers defeat Democrat J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. AIPAC has long used the threat of such successful campaigns, as well as the defeat of Sen. Roger Jepson of Iowa, who also voted for the AWACS sale, to keep other members of Congress in line.

• The Palestinian cabinet has accused American multimillionaire and financier of Israeli extremism Irving Moskowitz of "waging a campaign of colonization and gross provocation which represents a direct challenge to the Palestinian people." Moskowitz got his financial start buying and selling hospitals and then, with financial contributions, acquired control of the city council of a whole town, tiny Hawaiian Gardens, on the fringes of Los Angeles. There he has built a bingo parlor empire to help finance the Jewish nationalist Ateret Cohanim movement, which seeks to Judaize Arab East Jerusalem. Moskowitz financed the final phase of a tunnel dug along the foundations of Al Aqsa, Islam's third holiest site in the world, and was present when Israeli troops opened it to connect the Jewish and Arab quarters, setting off Israeli-Palestinian rioting and gunfights in which more than 60 persons were killed. In early January, he visited Israel to line up election campaign financing for right-wing extremist candidates.

New York state assemblyman Dov Hikind from Brooklyn, traveling with Moskowitz, said he had no doubt that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was the right man to support.

INSIGHT



Richard H. Curtiss

In Hebron, the Moskowitz group was greeted with music and dance by Jewish settlers. "These are people who love us and help us, they are real lovers of Israel," said Jewish settler Baruch Marzel. "They can't sleep at night if they don't give money to Hebron."

Israeli Knesset member Yossi Sarid, who leads the dovish Meretz party, said "the Moskowitz phenomenon is both frightening and disgusting. The very thought that a man who makes his money from betting parlors is also gambling with our fate fills me with apprehension."

Accompanying Moskowitz on his January trip to Israel and the occupied territories was pro-Israel extremist Republican Congressman Michael Forbes, whom the American Task Force for Palestine (ATFP) now calls a "rogue congressman." A...
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Kurdish tragedy

The tragedy of the Kurdish people is an all too familiar one: a people denied their right to identity. Other ethnic, cultural, religious and national groups in various countries have suffered the same unfair treatment from their governments. Eventually, they all had come into conflict with those in power, because they had come to the conclusion that fight was the only way to get their rights.

The government of Turkey refuses to tolerate anything connected with Arab or Islam. Necmettin Erbakan's government was dismissed because he had a program based on Islam. It does not want to live in peace with the Kurdish people and give them their rights.

Abdullah Ocalan's demand is that the Kurds be given their rights as a people.

Hashim Ibrahim Hashim
Jeddah

Political game

There have been many letters on Kashmir recently, all emotionally pleading for a solution to the festering problem. However, we can be certain that no political leader on either side of the border is likely to pay any attention to the pleas. The reason: The leaders of India and Pakistan are playing a political game in the name of Kashmir.

Neither of the countries has any problem dealing with each other in the international arena. As for the people of India and Pakistan, both wish a peaceful situation and cordial relations. But our leaders cannot afford that. "The threat from across the border" is their trump card. Without that under control their internal problems. They are not worried about the long-term consequences of their game on the nations. The economies of the two already-poor nations are collapsing. If Pakistan and India do not end this political game, there is no hope of development for them.

Of course, political games are in no way something peculiar to India and Pakistan. They are playing it in Iraq, Bosnia, Palestine, Kosovo — everywhere. The rulers who forget their countries' basic problems of unemployment, welfare, education, health and agricultural development are the enemies of their people, not friends.

K.S. Chandran
Alkhobar

Letters to the E...

DVD players

I also have had experiences similar to what Mr. Ravi Kumar wrote about in his letter on DVD players (Feb. 16).

When I visited one reputed electronic shop in Jeddah, the salesmen informed me that DVD's disc were not still available anywhere in the Kingdom.

Last year, while I was in India on leave, I bought some VCD audio CD and DVDs in New Delhi's Connaught Place. DVD, LD, CD and VCDs are available in all major cities of India.

There is not much point in selling high-priced electronic gadgets without making available their indispensable

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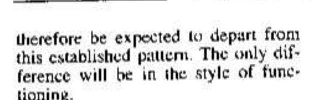
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Whoever be at the helm, Barak or Netanyahu, Israel's policy of expansionism and its cold approach to peace will never change. It is also likely that the peace process will be postponed to the beginning of 2001 because of elections in the U.S. unless of course unexpected developments appear.

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Peter Goldsmith
Riyadh

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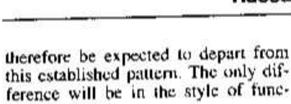
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A daily international newspaper **published by Saudi Research & Publishing Company**

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HISHAM AND MUHAMMAD ALI HAFIZ

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: SR900 (U.S. $241)
AIRMAIL POSTAGE INCLUDED
OR THE EQUIVALENT IN OTHER CURRENCIES
Printed at Al-Madina Printing and Publishing Co. Jeddah

ABC MEMBER OF THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION

Horn talks may not get to

By Peter Dausend

ASMARA — Is peace breaking out all over on the continent of wars? Just a few weeks after the cease-fire agreements in Sierra Leone and the Congo, there are signs of an end to the 14-month border war between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) has announced that delegations from the two warring countries will shortly meet in Algiers to work out the technical details of a peace agreement, the principles of which were agreed at the OAU summit in the Algerian capital in mid-July.

So it seems that, now that the brush-fire wars in the west (Sierra Leone) and the center (Congo) of Africa have ended, the biggest fire in the east of the continent may be quenched. However, the embers glimmer on.

Although former US National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, special envoy for the Horn of Africa, has called the upcoming conference a sign of "great progress toward a genuine peace," the problems to be solved in Algiers are only superficial and the talks will not get to the real heart of the matter.

The odd thing about the "border war" between Eritrea and Ethiopia is that it has less to do with the border in the so-called Badme triangle — which has been in dispute for years — than with injured national pride and economic interests. The two sides' troops will withdraw from the conquered border territories as envisaged by the OAU plan, but whether there is reason to doubt that this will bring peace to the region. The trust between the two countries, which until 1993 formed a single state, has been shattered. Eritrea's President Isaias Afeworki and Ethiopian Premier Meles Zenawi, once comrades-in-arms in the struggle against the Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam, are now fierce opponents.

After gaining independence, desperately poor Eritrea sought an "African solution" to its problems, deliberately refusing any financial aid from outside. This made it a favorite with all thos involvement ills.

The fact t Ethiopia's f stridently na voked its n blatantly see sympathizers uation devel when the sti fiance of all a own currency 1998. From t trade betwee be in hard cu mer empire o miliation.

The secessi ince had alre a landlocked nections to th the Horn of A further econo the dispute ov me region wa discharged the countries — a the latest peac

Letters to th

Opportunities for Saudis

It is the summer season again, and many fresh graduates are looking for jobs. They all hope that government or private sector establishments will give them opportunities to put their enthusiasm and knowledge to productive use.

What plans do we have for them? Have our business and government establishments chalked out a program to prepare and train them for a productive future and to absorb them into their work force eventually? It is everyone's responsibility to help them to take the first step toward the future they dream about. Once that all-important step is taken, they will, on their own, be able to build their lives in a better way. Starting from that point, they will be in a strong position to carry on the mission of nation building, move in the right direction and lead the country in the next millennium.

Hashim Ibrahim
Jeddah

The lad must learn

I was not comparing Tony Blair with Milosevic as alleged by Nabila Yaghmour (July 28). The damage which the Blairites are doing to Britain is constitutional — the creation of EU agency bureaus in Scotland and Wales, the handing over of our sovereignty to Brussels, the attack on the House of Lords and the betrayal of Ulster being the most outstanding examples.

Yaghmour mentions expatriates from all over the world returning to the UK. Where does he get this information from? The 400,000 new jobs and the reduction of unemployment by 50 percent is absolute nonsense. Were these ludicrous "statistics" obtained from the Department of Employment? And what does he mean by "... 18 years of Tory mismanagement"? Some examples of this would be in order. If the Conservatives were such a failure, then surely Tony Blair would now be reverting to the old-style socialist policies which dominated the British political landscape from Attlee until the advent of Margaret Thatcher.

Blair has replaced Heath as the worst prime minister Britain has ever had. Blair has to realize that he cannot run a sophisticated democracy like Britain's on the basis of "aw shucks" sound bites and throwing childish temper tantrums at hecklers. The lad has a lot to learn.

Francis A. Andrew
Dammam

Thinking with heart

Kedir Atta's letters show that he has chosen, while analyzing events, to follow his heart rather than use his head. He has no doubt in his heart that all Eritreans and the world community are wrong. He suggests that 50,000 Eritreans were killed by Ethiopians. He is so thrilled with the numbers that he goes on to wonder what is going to happen to Eritreans. (He must have been crying when he wrote that). Kedir does not stop at that. We, the Ethiopians, he proclaims, are going to drive Isaias' forces out. And, all of a sudden, he hands the responsibility of driving out the EPLF back to the Eritreans!

While I do not wish to discourage his effort at semantics, I wish he would try thinking with his head. He should give his heart a break. Otherwise, he is going to end up in the museum of the Heart Foundation.

T.E.G. Hiwot
Jeddah

Case for double-deckers

For Haj operations, it will be more advantageous to use double-decker buses than the ordinary type. Since they can carry double the number of passengers, it w traffic by half. also mean less ating cost also v example, only c ed in place of tv

Post-Kargi

Here are som have drawn fro colleagues from media reports.

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Murder of Chechens

The coldblooded murder of the innocent people of Chechnya must be stopped immediately. If a veto-holding power commits terrible crimes, the UN does not even voice its concerns. Though created to ensure peace around the globe, the world body is always slow in action. It waits for massacres, destruction and refugee crisis before making a move. Sending food aid is not enough; it should issue a clear warning to Russia's arrogant leaders to halt the offensive against the defenseless people.

Has the Russian government proved that the bomb blasts in Moscow were the act of Chechens? Even if they were, its massive action is like burning a whole building to kill a single rat. And what type of game are the Russians playing by stopping refugees from escaping to neighboring countries?

The IMF must rethink about giving loans to Russia because the funds will be used for military purpose only, making it too a partner, though indirect, in the crime against humanity. There will not be a peaceful solution unless negotiations take place between the two parties with representatives of the international community and the United States present.

History should make it clear to the Russians that it is through negotiations that lasting solutions are found; military actions cannot do that.

Aboo Abdullah
Jeddah

Parental failure

The increasing social alienation of our children is something that should worry us. It is a very serious matter when we find that our grown children have become very hard to deal with. They want to take life as they like, with no control. They have a very wrong understanding of freedom. They do not have good relations with their relatives and they do not get involved in ordinary social activities, as we used to in our younger days.

The fault is not theirs, but ours. We have failed to give them the care and attention we used to get from our parents and elders. The younger generation is in need of more attention from us. We must find time to give them the support, advise and guidance that will ease pressure on them and help them to find their direction in life.

When we are too busy to discharge our parental duties, they seek their guidance from TV and radio stations, satellites, video and the Internet. Let us not blame them if they get their philosophy of life from these harmful sources.

Hashim Ibrahim Hashim
Jeddah

Turko-phobia

Concepts such as "ugly" and "prejudice" have gained new dimensions through Mr. McCormick's relentless promotion of hatred against my country. The common practice is to criticize a particular government, individuals or laws one may not like. However, McCormick is setting a new standard by criticizing an entire nation including the newly born and yet to be born.

I request my countrymen not to be drawn into a battle of rhetoric by replying to McCormick and others. Let them have then fun until they get sick of their own lies. McCormick is certainly suffering from "Turko-phobia" with chronic verbal diarrhea. He should see a psychiatrist.

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Colonialism is finished; it is history. What happened in Ireland and the dreadful treatment of Irish citizens by the English, whilst barbaric, is best forgotten. The current economic, social, political and all favorable aspects in Ireland, which are enviable today, are what matters. The young people in Ireland are prepared to forget the past and focus on building a better future. This has contributed to a country in Europe at the leading edge of education, economic growth, arts, literature, tourism, technology and a lifestyle that is quite unique.

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Lep Re Kawn
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Dying breed

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We should be thankful that Andrew is among the last of a dying breed.

John Wallen
Yanbu

A fourth umpire?

The recently concluded Sharjah Cup finals has proved beyond doubt that the officiating umpires were either biased in their judgment of some dismissals, or they had such poor vision that they needed immediate ophthalmological treatment.

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Men

Saudi Gazette
) M M E N T
WEDNESDAY
15 JULY 1998

Vorld Cup spirit prevail?

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Perhaps more significantly from the French point of view is that their national team came from a broad cross section of society, a supposedly multiracial society from which many people of immigrant backgrounds feel excluded. The team was composed of players from a variety of ethnic backgrounds from Africa to the Caucasus and in the process, as one French commentator noted: "... delivered a wonderful blow to the big, fat nose of Jean-Marie Le Pen".

The French National Front led by Le Pen draws its support from those who would like to see immigrants, especially nonwhite immigrants, repatriated. A cartoon in one French newspaper during the course of the World Cup had a drawing of a stereotyped Frenchman in a beret being asked if he detests foreigners. "Not as long as they go on scoring goals," he replies. But people can only "go on scoring goals" if they are given the opportunity and in the high-rise blocks which circle most major French cities immigrants from North Africa and elsewhere are not being given those opportunities. The reality is that for many young people, particularly those from immigrant backgrounds, France, like other countries in Europe, presents a forbidding face.

Unemployment, which is already relatively high by European Union standards, is particularly high amongst young people from immigrant families. Exclusion leads to desperation which leads inevitably to crime.

France 98 showed the potential that a multicultural society can have if it is given the chance. It showed France in its best light. The question that remains is, when all the street parties and celebrations have finally died down, will the spirit of the World Cup 1998 infuse the future or will it simply be business as usual?



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'no'. One editor of an influential Urdu paper made it clear to him on the phone that if he didn't explode the bomb, the people would 'explode' him.

There is, however, a growing debate in Pakistan whether it should have detonated the bomb at all. Intellectuals, human rights activists and journalists are participating in it. A few of them were beaten up when they aired their objection in public. But the discussion behind the doors is fierce. According to them, Sharif had the best of opportunity to establish Pakistan's credentials of "not a maverick country" before the world. "For once he could have shown that Pakistan's policy was not a carbon copy of India's," they say. However bold

LETTERS

Letters for publication should include the writer's name, postal address and telephone number. They should be sent to: The Editor, Saudi Gazette, P. O. Box 5576, Jeddah - 21432. The e-mail address is 105652.1670@compuserve.com. The fax number is 6727621. The Editor reserves the right to edit letters.

Congratulations, France!

Sir – It is a combination of hard work coupled with luck and home field advantage that made France win the World Soccer Cup for the first time in its history.

It is unfortunate that the soccer teams of Asian countries, especially Saudi Arabia, which had been proudly hoping to reach the World Cup Finals, lost their first round matches and had to return home in disappointment. However, they can exert more efforts and get better results in the next World Cup.

Congratulations, France! Keep it up!

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Indian Muslims only want peace

Sir – The present situation in India is becoming very critical. The BJP is doing what it wants and the opposition parties, as usual, are trying to pull the government down. What have the people gained by the activities of all of these parties? Day by day, we are loosing our humanity, brotherhood, love and peace. The parties coming to rule are only thinking of their own profit, not the nation's. The BJP government has conducted five nuclear tests with ulterior motives. The tests have helped to make its position strong and stable. No one else has benefited from the nuclear tests.

The prices of commodities are rising higher. The government cannot provide food, clothes and shelter to the poor. So where are they to go?

The BJP government does not guess why the Muslims are ignoring that party. The Muslims boycott the BJP because it wants to create a Ram Rajya (Hindu welfare state), which is definitely not possible in a country where so many religions are flourishing.

If the BJP wants to do something good for India and the Indians, first, it should stop all construction works for a temple at Ayodhya. Second, it should avoid misguiding youngsters in religious matters. Third, it should ban parties like Bajrang Dal, Bharatiya Jan Sang, Shiv Sena, Hindu Mahasabha, the VHP and the RSS. Fourth, it should engage in dialogues with other minority communities. Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said in the *Gazette* Fallout Interviews that the Muslims and Hindus had equal rights in the land of India. Why then do they create differences between them? Why do they mix politics with

the killing of mad dogs.

If a man commits murder, he is given the death penalty. If human beings are sentenced to death in this manner, what is wrong with putting mad animals to death?

Another incident occurred in a hospital in Maharashtra, where a dog snatched a child away from the maternity ward. Hence, first preference must be given to human protection, and then to animals.

Mohd. Saleemuddin
Al-Qatif

Philippine schools debate - I

Sir - I would like to inform A. Delos Santos (*Saudi Gazette*, July 10) that it is bad news for the NIPSJ to be continuously interfered with by the Philippine embassy or consulate, because it is a violation of both the IAC Manual and the Saudi Ministry of Education rules. The writer should know that, because of this interference, NIPSJ failed to get MOE license until now, the same situation that is used by the post as an excuse to strangle the school community in Jeddah.

The Manual of Regulations for the Operations of Philippine Schools Abroad was ratified by IAC for implementation effective school year 1997-1998, official copy of which was received by NIPSJ in October last year. It was supposed to be for public dissemination. However, it was kept secretive by the school board because it would jeopardize the positions of its members as well as the interests of their supporters. It is ridiculous to have an urgent seminar of the manual after a lapse of eight months; making it an excuse to postpone the election which is in itself a compliance with the manual and the host's regulations.

The board election on July 3, 1998 was a legitimate exercise clamored for by the school community, approved by the school director and duly approved by the first school board in its memo dated June 24, 1998. The so-called "legitimate instruction" to postpone the election was the result of a strong lobby with IAC by only four people who want to cling to their chairs.

I urge Delos Santos to get a copy of the manual which is written in clear and simple English and honestly say it really needs an interpretation through a seminar or not. By the way, the manual is not only for NIPSJ but rather for all Philippine schools abroad. Is it coincidental that only NIPSJ

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– *The New York Times*

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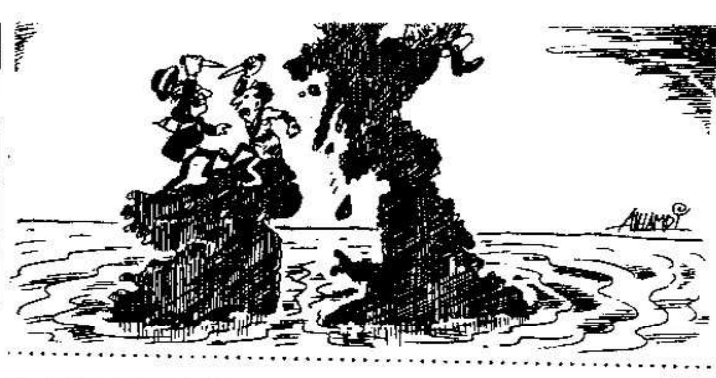
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LETTERS

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Babri Masjid

Sir – Destruction is the first phase of construction. This is an ideology in itself.

I see so many views being expressed about the destruction of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, [illegible] the subsequent preparations for the construction of a temple. The destruction has already taken place, but construction is in progress. All statements seem to indicate the fact that eventually a temple will emerge in its place.

Without being critical, I would like to ask a simple question: What preparations have been made for the reconstruction of the Babri Masjid?

Preparation versus preparation breeds neutralization – we all know that. The recent nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan have brought many people to their senses.

Mohammed Abdul Aleem
Yanbu

Unlucky Benazir

Sir – The interview of Benazir Bhutto (*Saudi Gazette*, June 30) was very interesting. Benazir Bhutto is the most seasoned and talented politician of Pakistan. Politically she is more mature and liberal compared to Nawaz Sharif. Oxford and Harvard-educated Benazir is the biggest crowd puller politician. However fate has always been harsh to her. In her youth, in the period of Zia she was kept under house arrest for a number of years. Zia was afraid that if she was let free, she would become a threat to his military rule. Being Z.A. Bhutto's daughter, she would get the sympathy of the masses. It was confirmed when she won the first general election held after Zia's death. But once again fate was not kind to her and her government was sacked by egoistic Ghulam Ishaque Khan. In her second tenure she was sacked by Leghari who was once her confidential lieutenant. Leghari did to Benazir what Zia had done to her father.

Benazir is also a very good columnist and her articles reveal her broad vision.

The stand Benazir took on Pakistan's nuclear explosion is right. She is right that Nawaz Sharif should have decided right away on the matter. She is also right that Sharif mismanaged economic affairs and the cancellation of fundamental rights by Sharif is also deplorable. The sufferers in either case are the poor people for the big fishes had already withdrawn their money. However the credit of atomic/nuclear technology's development goes to late Bhutto and Sharif is carrying away the credit as if he had started the program.

Regarding the corruption charges and the Ehtesab Bureau, it can be said that the charges leveled against her are politically motivated. No doubt Zardari was involved in many corruption scandals but the way he is kept under detention is against the law. A person, before law, is not a culprit unless the charges are proved. Though the government has arrested Zardari, but so far the government and the court could not prove anything. This is absolute political vengeance.

The Ehtesab Bureau has charged Benazir with corruption and has succeeded in blocking her accounts but the bureau has not yet taken any note of the corruption charges against Sharif. Sharif's involvement in the Taj Company scandal, in Yellow Cab scandal and Punjab Bank scandal are well-known. Leghari's involvement in Mehran Bank scandal is also well-known but no case has been charged against either of them. In the eye of the law everyone is the same.

Moreover, Zardari has been in detention from the day Benazir government was sacked but nobody ever asked for a fair judgement. But when that of India, but so far it has not been proved. In fact any external hand does not succeed unless it is supported by an internal hand. Sharif's government is full of m[illegible]. The opposition parties had also created havoc when Benazir declared Sunday a holiday instead of Friday but when Sharif did the same, they are silent.

The services of Bhutto family for the cause of Pakistan cannot be undermined. It was Bhutto who started the nuclear program. It was Bhutto who declared the Qadianis non-Musims. It was Bhutto who made Friday a holiday. And it was he who gave Pakistan a national dress.

Bhutto was a genius, but unfortunately he fell in bad hands and finally the man whom he appointed chief of the army ignoring the seniority of six generals, killed him.

Benazir has seen many ups and downs in her life. Whatever might be her shortcomings she is still a force and she cannot be written off.

Abu Yasar
Khamis Mushayt

A bad experience with Gulf Air

Sir – I recently had a very bad experience with Gulf Air while returning after a one month vacation, from Kerala. I had a return ticket from Dhahran to Calicut on Gulf Air, which has flight links with Jet Airlines, a domestic carrier which carries passengers from Bombay to Calicut and other internal destinations.

On my return journey from Calicut via Jet Airlines, I reached Bombay airport at 4:30 on the evening of July 3. My connecting flight (FL No. GF0051) via Bahrain to Dhahran was 5:30 the following morning - i.e., July 4. I asked the Gulf Air counter attendants at the airport about accommodation, which is usually provided, in such a long waiting situation. I was told that their instructions were only to give accommodation to Abu Dhabi and Doha passengers, and that the list, given by Gulf Air authorities, had not included my name. On making further inquiry, I realized that my ticket was old; I had purchased it before the fare increase. Those who bought their tickets before the increase were not entitled to courtesy accommodation. Consequently, I had to stay at airport the whole night, i.e., about 12 hours.

This unfortunate situation created a mental strain and hardship for me. It was a breach of promise on the part of Gulf Air. Such acts are not appropriate for an airline committed to providing good services for all its customers. I have decided that henceforth I will not fly by Gulf Air. Since I bought a direct round trip ticket from Dhahran to Calicut, it was Gulf Air's responsibility to provide accomodation in the event of any delay in-between flights.

Those who travel on Gulf Air should be made aware of this. Before traveling, they should check out the time of their connecting flights, and inquire about accomodation arrangements, so that they cannot be cheated.

M. Surendran
Al-Khobar

Asian crisis

Sir – The money market crash is a disaster threatening the world at large and the East Asian countries, especially the Asian Tigers, with unexpected consequences.

Because we live in a new world, we have to understand what is happening in the money markets. Otherwise, we will find ourselves in the worst possible situation.

Hashim Filali

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(The first part of th appeared on July 2.)

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By Ed Stoddar

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Some economists say th
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ercent this year. He emphasized that he could not give any populist concessions on a subject that affects Turkey's future."

The coalition is a minority government that depends on the fickle backing of a leftist opposition party. If this party does not back the government, it may fall when a censure motion is made. However, most analysts predict that Yilmaz will survive yet another motion. Those who want to bring down his government have no chance of securing the 276 votes required from the 550 seat Assembly.

The government is supposed to hold elections in April next year, but Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit has called for even earlier elections, declaring on Wednesday: "I believe it is better to call elections at the end of this year if this government is not given a chance to work in comfort."

It is hard to see how Yilmaz's government, or any other, could work in comfort unless Turkey improves its faltering economy. A 90 percent inflation rate is eating into the income of all citizens with limited earnings. It is affecting all the components of government expenditure, private investment and consumption that comprise the gross national product. The IMF, as usual, is demanding an austerity program for Turkey as the only way to dig itself out of its economic hole.

The problem, however, is that most citizens do not look at the overall picture; they only focus on their personal problems and blame the government for everything. This kind of harsh program can only be implemented by a government that has a comfortable majority in parliament. It is hard to see how Turkey can get such a government even if elections were held. Turkey is polarized by a long-standing "secular versus religious population."



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Judge Louis Brandies, leader of the American Reform Judaism, and Dr Chaim Weizmann, the man credited with obtaining the Balfour Declaration and who was president of the World Zionist Organization (1921-29) and lately became the first president of the Zionist state.

The dispute involved both personal issues and an ideological debate over the future of Zionism. American Reform Judaism, for example, proclaimed that Palestine was no longer a Jewish land and that the USA was "Zion."

To these Jews, Zionism was damaging to the fabric of Judaism and only served to stir up Russians that resulted in the claimed death of thousands of ...

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India, Pakistan nuclear states

Sir – An independent American thinktank, the Institute for Energy and Environment Research, is right in urging the American as well as other world bodies to recognize India and Pakistan as countries that can proliferate nuclear bombs.

The American pride as well as the UN Security Council's resolutions may not favor including these Asian nations in the nuclear club. Will such a stand deactivate the nuclear bombs if dropped on civilian as well as military targets? Millions will die in the nuclear holocaust; that is going to be the reality whether the world accepts it or not!

India, Israel and Pakistan are widely believed to possess nuclear weapons. The five permanent Security Council members who are also nuclear powers cannot exclude them from the nuclear disarmament talks in the future.

The institute is also correct in observing that America's China policy does not seem to be an encouraging factor to bring India to the negotiating table. America's lukewarm response to India's concern over national security compounded by its preferential treatment of Pakistan and China, will affect the regional balance politically as well as militarily. Consequently, India will go ahead with the development of long range missiles to counter China's threats.

Ironically, it is difficult to understand America's gesture of turning a deaf ear to India's claim that South Asia's security is threatened more by China's covert activities — e.g., arming Pakistan by supplying it with missiles and nuclear weapons — than India's decision of going nuclear. Yet America has not made the slightest effort to chastise China!

The US must resort to confidence-building measures in Asia by being impartial. To achieve that it should stop being prejudiced against India. If India gains confidence in American peace-keeping efforts, it will be receptive to America's call for disarmament.

K. Kamalakaran
Riyadh

Raj not neutral

Sir – I used to enjoy reading the letters from Mr Raj Behl, especially the ones attacking some of Greg Russell's claims. However, Mr Raj's letter (*Saudi Gazette*, July 14) does not reflect the views of a neutral observer of Indian politics, as he strongly criticizes Mr Kuldip Nayar, one of India's well-known writers, for being biased against the present government of India.

Mr Nayar's columns, many like me believe, are very interesting, straight forward in presenting matters and well-written, but he always tries to present the real face of the Sangh Parivar (BJP and Co) – i.e., the real menace of today. Look ...

Mr Nayar has always been exposing the threat from these BJP, VHP and Shiv Sena leaders who are comparable more or less only to Netanyahu in their unethical behavior.

In assessing and predicting the BJP Government's performance, it does not require much intelligence to predict that two parallel straight lines will never meet. Anybody would have laughed at the immature statements made by some of the ministers when India exploded its bombs. Now, all are silent. India has never witnessed such a "chaotic" government in its 50 years of independence.

I call on the *Saudi Gazette* to arrange a questionnaire to evaluate the readership of its different columns. I am sure, Mr Nayar's will be among the top scoring.

K. Mohamed
Jeddah

Africa's disasters affect the world

Sir – It has become something normal to read about the many different disasters occurring in Africa, whether natural bad weather disasters, or man-made disasters, political problems causing wars and changes in a country's government — replacing one system with another.

Such very bad situations, of course, indirectly affect the rest of the world in the same way.

We all know that the African continent is very rich, as it holds all the world's natural resources. These disasters affect the world economy in return.

Hashim Ibrahim
Jeddah

NIPSJ Board

Sir – "NIPSJ Board" (*Saudi Gazette*, July 12) by Makanta Rungan alleges the active participation in school board elections by the Toastmasters Club of Jeddah, officially known as Tanglaw Toastmasters Club, which I, as its charter President, find very disturbing and totally unfounded.

As one of thousands of worldwide registered members of the Toastmasters Clubs International based in California, US, and as one of the duly accredited clubs in Saudi Arabia, our vision is the empowerment of people to make them achieve their full potential and realize their dreams by improving their communication and leadership skills.

While it is true that some of the parents who actively participated in the recently conducted election of the NIPSJ School Board are members of this club, their participation is purely limited to their capacity as the parents whose children are enrolled at NIPSJ. The club has not opposed nor encouraged the conduct of the election and will never be involved in an activity which is not related to its mission and vision.

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only to continue negotiating.

The Palestinians made a great concession by accepting the US plan revealed to them and the Israelis behind closed doors seven months ago. The Israelis, on the other hand, have completely rejected the plan. Yet, the US has not publicly revealed the full text of its plan which calls for Israeli withdrawal from only 13 percent of the West Bank. Clearly, the US finds itself in a dilemma. By revealing the full text of its plan and underscoring the Palestinian acceptance vis-a-vis the Israeli rejection, it will embarrass itself and stir American public opinion against its pampered ally, Israel.

Netanyahu's expansionist mentality and intransigent policies are manifest in his rejection of providing him with a golden opportunity for procrastination by reiterating his intransigent position and refusal to return the Arab territories occupied by Israel in exchange for a just and comprehensive peace settlement.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak called on the US to publicly disclose the full text of its plan, and expose Israel's utter rejection of it. "By not revealing its plan, the US is gambling away its credibility in the Mid-east as an honest peace broker," Mubarak said.

Most analysts had mistakenly believed the US would pressure Israel to withdraw from 13 percent of the West Bank. Instead, the US just arranged for the futile meeting, even though it knew fully-well that nothing tangible could come out of it.



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rians come up with learned theses on the outbreak of hostilities through history. Books are written on the Art of War and the exploits of generals. War games and military exercises are conducted. Newer and newer weapons of destruction are developed, tested and perfected. All these are for one single aim – killing of human beings. Some years ago there was talk of development of so called 'clean weapons', ones that killed off the 'enemy' without destroying the structures!

The catch phrase 'human rights' has become fashionable. This is good in principle but its application is so selective. Who is to define 'human rights'? One finds often that much more is made of the imprisonment of one dissident in one part of the world than of the massacre of thousands of innocent human beings in another. Is that fair, or even rational?

One should at the very least agree on one simple principle: that human life is sacred. Whether the human being is killed in the waste lands of Ruwanda, the urban jungle of Bosnia or the killing fields of Cambodia, the matter should be the common concern of all mankind. Once one is agreed on this principle, one could perhaps be nearer to discovering 'the reason why'.

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ture of impunity," Johnston told Reuters last week.

Irish said the killing last week of two ANC officials —

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Unfair exclusion

Sir – Taiwan's campaign to rejoin the United Nations is meant to draw attention to its unfair exclusion from the world body rather than challenge Beijing's UN seat, said the foreign ministry recently.

In anticipation of a fruitless bid this year for UN membership after US President Bill Clinton stated that Washington would not support the bid, ministry spokesman Roy Wu said Taiwan would rather demonstrate the unfairness of UN Resolution 2758, which stripped Taiwan of its UN membership in 1971.

Given that Taiwan has forsaken its long-standing policy of refusing to co-exist with Beijing and has virtually ruled out the possibility of engaging in military action to reclaim the mainland, Wu said the UN should revise its stance toward Taiwan accordingly.

Taiwan does not claim to be the government representing all of China, rather it demands fair representation in the UN for the territory and people under its jurisdiction, said Wu.

Claiming that Resolution 2758 is out of date in the post-Cold War period, when negotiation and cooperation have replaced ideological conflict and armed confrontation as the major factors affecting world development, Wu urged the UN to review the resolution in accordance with the new political reality and with the change in cross-strait relations.

As there are separate governments effectively ruling Taiwan and mainland China, separate representation for Taipei and Beijing in the United Nations will more properly reflect the de facto division between them, said Wu.

Fareed Hwang
Riyadh

A math genius

Sir – In reference to the article entitled "The Math's Detective" (*Saudi Gazette*, June 15) by Paul Majendle, let me join the millions in congratulating the mathematical wizard, Andrew Wiles, for solving math's greatest riddle of all times, the nerve-wracking equation xn+yn=zn where "n" is greater than 2.

Although this algebraic equation, also called Fermi's last theorem, appears to be simple and precise, it had been the most unsolvable equation for the past three hundred years. It is no exaggeration to say that this equation sent some mathematicians to their graves in utter disappointment — having failed to solve it.

It is fascinating to find a boy of only ten years, an age at which even the fundamentals of Algebra are hardly understood, setting his life ambition to solve this riddle which had eluded the brains of mathematical wizards for centuries.

The fact that Andrew Wiles had taken 34 precious years of his life to accomplish this great mathematical feat reveals how determined he was in pursuit of his goal.

This reminds me of another sensational brain teaser, Rubic's Cube, which is famous for having made the principal of an educational institution, who had retrieved the cube from a student, leave his job in order to solve its riddle.

K. Kamalakaran

The writer mischievously tried to twist the facts he claimed to have researched, but he should be taken to task for not knowing or refusing to know the following:

1. Nobody opposes the election except the members of the first school board.

2. The terms of appointment of the first board members expired last school year.

3. The ambassador, who appoints the board members, ordered the election to be conducted on or before the 3rd week of June 1998.

4. There was a consensus, reached on June 22, 1998 by an assembly of parents, faculty and staff in the presence of the ambassador, that an election be held on June 26, 1998.

5. The total number of voters including parents, faculty and staff was 525 out of which 217 cast their votes.

6. Although the consul general has the moral responsibility to recognize the newly elected board officials, he did not take their side. In fact, the Consulate and Embassy recommended to Dr Hamad Al-Balady of the MOE not to give the necessary recognition to the newly elected NIPSJ board members in a meeting on July 8, 1998.

7. We are not taking our seats by force, but rather the school community gave us the mandate through a democratic process.

8. No one should make an excuse for not being informed of the election, because some parents were even informed more than once especially if they have more kids enrolled at NIPSJ.

9. There is no urgency with the IAC seminar and it could not be used as another excuse for election deferment because the manual was in the possession of the first board since October last year.

We did not take our oath until now out of decency and self-respect. The community has chosen us, and I believe even if the election were to be held a hundred times, those who have voted for the candidates will continue to support them.

Makata Rungan should not worry, because we shall wait for the right opportunity to do the inauguration. But let us not forget the truth: "The higher you rise, the harder you'll fall; and the longer you stay, the shorter it lasts."

Dr Amilbahar S. Matingka
Makkah

Balance of power

Sir – It is quite true that Pakistan has no enemy except India, and that it utilizes much of its money and other resources to maintain a proper defense.

By successfully conducting its nuclear tests, Pakistan proved what it is capable of doing. The world need not be worried any longer by the power imbalance which occurred in the subcontinent after India conducted its nuclear tests.

Now, Pakistan is eligible to join the nuclear club. It is possible for other countries as well to join the same club. However, if that happens, the situation will undoubtedly get out of control.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Nayar is Punjabi

Sir – This is with reference to the load of rubbish written by Pandi Thevar. I am surprised that a

Saudi Gazette
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WEDNESDAY
22 JULY 1998

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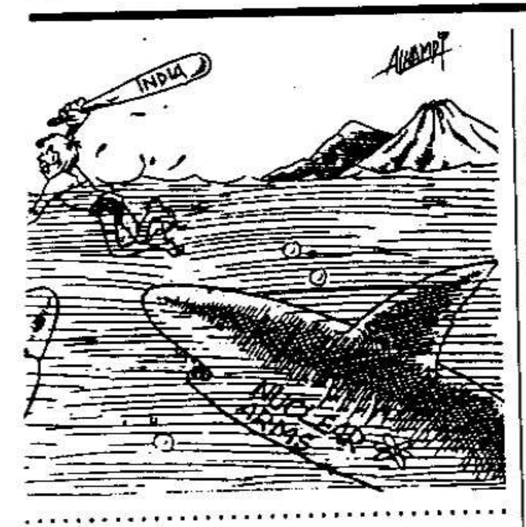
Al-Duwaima Island, three forth of which belongs to the Kingdom. The Saudi side tried to resolve the situation through peaceful means. However, there were provocations on the part of the Yemeni forces. The Yemeni media launched a malicious campaign against Saudi Arabia. Then, on Sunday the Yemeni troops started firing at Saudi forces on the island. As Prince Naif said, "It is the Yemeni border guards who started the aggression. We did not begin. We had to fight back in self-defense."

Prince Naif reiterated that Saudi Arabia does not want a dialogue with Yemen through the media. Communication channels at the highest level in the Kingdom are open to the Yemeni authorities. Saudi Arabia and Yemen have historical bonds. Both countries have maintained good neighborly relations from time immemorial. Therefore, discussing bilateral disputes in public will only add to the bitterness, rather than contribute to solving the border problems.

In spite of the clash, Prince Naif has justifiably adopted a conciliatory tone, clearly stating that Saudi Arabia does not want to enter into any armed conflict, and that it would like to solve the border problem through direct negotiations without involving any third party. Between brothers this is the most logical course.

It seems that the message of conciliation given by Prince Naif during his press conference Monday has gone well with the Yemeni authorities. The scheduled arrival of Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdel-Kader Bajamal Saturday in the Kingdom is a positive move in that direction.

Yemen should try to prevent its forces from committing any provocation. It should accept the Kingdom's generous and sincere offer for a peaceful settlement of the border dispute.



ust a big lie

iments in Europe and not ause of Zionist aspiration that of Zionist leaders.

few years before World r II (1933), the Nazi regime ne to power in Germany and nediately began to take sys- atic measures against non- yans; including communists, onists and others. During the ars 1941-1944, the Zionist vement accused the Ger- ins of killing six million Jews concentration camps for the rpose of: (a) drawing sympa- y of the Allies who turned out ctorious, and (b) hastening the ws in many countries to im- igrate to Palestine in order not ce the same destiny as those ho were in German controlled eas. It would be unfair to deny at Jews and other non-Aryans ad faced persecution on the ands of the Nazis.

However, the count of deaths mong the Jews was highly ex- ggerated for the reasons men- ioned below: (1) There is no istorical tangible evidence for he strong version of the holo- caust exemplified in the burn- ng of six million Jews in Nazi gas chambers. (2) Most evi-

in gas chambers in Germany as many were made to believe, but rather in Poland with a much smaller number of victims than reported by the international Zionist movement.

Fred Lauschter, an American specialist in designing and constructing gas chambers, visited Auschwitz (the city claimed to be the center of gas chambers where Jews were burnt). After examining these chambers, he reported that it would be ridiculous to claim that such chambers were used for executing people.

The only evidence collected that Auschwitz was used a death camp came from Rudolf Hess's (one of the captured commanders of the Nazi army) confessions that were extracted under severe torture and interrogation by British Intelligence. Such confessions cannot be used as reliable evidence, especially since they contradict professional opinions. The estimated number of Jews killed during the war was 300,000; much less than the number of Muslims killed in the Jewish holocaust in Palestine.

As the number of Jewish

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An independent Kashmir

Sir – In reference to A. Salam's letter (*Saudi Gazette*, July 6) in which he says that Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan called those who are advocating for an independent Kashmir "traitors," I would like to pose the following question for both Salam and Khan: If campaigning for an independent Kashmir is traitorous, what about those who demanded a new country, Pakistan, during Partition in 1947 or even before that? Had they not betrayed their goals and broken their promises by agreeing to create Pakistan?.

The Pakistani slogan is that Kashmir is only a part of Pakistan. Even Benazir agrees with this. But such a desire is unrealistic. If this slogan is quite popular with even the Pakistani leaders, then A. Salam should not be worried over the Kashmir issue.

M. Azam Zia
Yanbu

Making correct decisions

Sir — It is very important to keep our knowledge-base updated. We must realize that correct information leads to correct decisions, and that correct decisions culminate in correct actions.

We must also choose the right path when we become involved in business or industrial activities. Otherwise, we will find ourselves in a terrible predicament — at a time of swift changes.

We also have to utilize all available resources in order to improve our status.

Hashim Ibrahim
Jeddah

Baseless accusations

Sir – I would like to react to a letter sent by Miguel Bautista entitled "Baseless Accusations." (*Saudi Gazette*, July 14)

Firstly, let me clarify to our readers that I do not know Felix Serrano personally and I am coming to his defence because I and UNCLE, one of the most active mother organizations comprising of 25 different community organizations based in Riyadh, have been a victim of Maravilla's way of sowing intrigues among the community leaders in Riyadh. I can vouch to Serrano's claim that Maravilla is a trouble-maker.

Secondly, I would like to refute Bautista's claim that Serrano showed the darker side of the

Naval and another Maravilla's destructive way further dividing the community and creati misunderstanding among community leaders.

This prompted me to take the cudgel for En; Naval. As their Secretary-General under UNCL it is my prime obligation to protect their rig against any form of partisanship and injustic led a strike right inside the Chancery Buildi denouncing this destructive move of Maravi We sent our resignation letter to Ambassador paldon but it was not accepted by him. Ambas dor Espaldon encouraged us to stay put for sake of our country. As such, we went on in s of the fact that the working atmosphere Maravilla was already unhealthy.

Based from my real experience with hin cannot be convinced that Maravilla is a fine. eran career foreign service officer of the Ph pines and that he has shown his dedication to finest traditions of the diplomatic profession.

By the way, it did not come to me as a surp if UNCLE was not invited in a meeting to cou the petition against him.

The ambassador we need in Riyadh is in tradition of former Ambassador Romulo M paldon – soft-spoken, humble, service-mi and with a heart for those who are dedicated t true essence of community service. We do need the opposite of Ambassador Espaldon.

Rashid Cesar C. Saav
Ri

Nayar not a Malayali

Sir – I was amused to read Pandi Thevar's on Kuldip Nayar (*Saudi Gazette*, July 1 Thevar can mistake Nayar for a Malayali (ite) and write such a letter, then my only adv Thevar is to go home and look around for a alite friend as guru to teach him politics. " rala, every citizen is a politician and every s citizen is an orator."

Indirectly, Thevar's letter is a more be reply to Raj Behl's than Shaikh Niamu "Blinkered Vision" (July 19). Raj Behl and Thevar belong to a new group of hypocrite play hide-and-seek regarding their affiliat the ideology they nurture in their hearts. look forward to the day when the tricolour ually merges in the saffron color, by eq nationalism with the Hinduism propagated BJP government at the center now.

Raj Behl, you are grossly mistaken. F

egotiators Mordechai, United uest for oing by e Mid-east. Curry. stage by eed to know nitted to ve forward". is the hat is

the "two parties" have to sort out ... that was possible, there would have been no need for US mediation.

The Americans have been urging the Palestinians to talk to officials of the Israeli government, even though the Israelis have rejected the US proposal that they should withdraw from 13 percent of the West Bank. One wonders why the Americans continue with this policy when it is quite clear that nothing will come out of such talks.

A Palestinian spokesman, Mahmoud Abbas, said that the Israelis tried to get round the US proposal for a 13 percent Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank. If

withdraw from all the Arab ... since the 1967 war in return for normal relations with all its neighbors.

It is hard to see how there can be peace in the Mideast if Israel continues to flout the agreements it has entered into. That country has become a law unto itself because it honors no undertakings, ignores international law and refuses to implement United Nations resolutions.

It is a sad fact that the US protective umbrella is encouraging Israel to revel in its role as the world's most prominent rogue nation.



Obuchi, now ...ard part



Obuchi

Success will demand deft ...litical footwork and a delicate ...nomic balancing ...t. 'That's what ...'re sweating at now,' said one diplomat, when asked about prospects for prompt policy implementation.

do so in a destructive way."

No Lower House election need be held until October 2000 and the LDP wants as much time as possible before having to face voters, many of whom are clearly irritated at its inability thus far to rescue the economy from recession.

"In this time of national confusion, I believe that naturally there is a need to cooperate, so we will not do anything such as... holding the Upper House as a 'hostage' to force general elections," opposition Democratic Party executive Yukio Hatoyama said in a televised interview.

Balancing bold consolidation of the financial sector, whose bad loan woes many blame for blocking recovery, with efforts to cushion the deflationary fallout from bank closures and company failures also demands a delicate touch at the policy helm.

Many still doubt the LDP is prepared to perform the "major surgery" on the banking sector urged by failed candidate Seiroku Kajiyama and sought by financial markets. If policymakers do bite the bullet on banking reform, they face the equally tough task of trying to cushion the negative fallout from resulting bank closures and corporate failures.

"It's a Catch-22 for the yen," said Jeff Young, chief economist at Salomon Smith Barney. "The yen will go down if they don't do anything (about the banks), and if they do act and try to offset the impact with loose monetary policy, the yen still goes down," he said.

Shiozaki said the next government would deploy fiscal steps to offset the deflationary impact of a financial shakeout, ...

... for 60 days. Such bills ...ld then be returned to the

LETTERS

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Chinese mediation on Kashmir

Sir – China offered to mediate between India and Pakistan to resolve the long-standing Kashmir issue.

India might consider such a gesture by China. However, India should first be allowed to mediate between China and Tibet to resolve the Tibetan crisis; between China and the Philippines to resolve the issue of Spratly Islands; and between China and Taiwan to settle the problems over Taiwan's independence. India will also be glad to mediate between China and its pro-democracy dissidents.

China forcibly occupied 40,000 sq km of Indian land during the 1962 Indo-China War. Nevertheless, it has so far refused to talk about resolving this outstanding border issue with India. Yet, China is generous enough in extending its goodwill to resolve an issue which has nothing to do with it. Perhaps, China is trying to divert international attention from the yet to be resolved Indo-China border dispute.

When George Fernandes issued statements against China, most of the moderate Indians were angry with him. But China will destroy such goodwill, which is widespread among the Indians, by its unnecessary meddling in India's internal affairs.

China must realize that it is better for the region if it promotes better relations with India – a nation that has all the potential to supersede it in every field. China must follow the example of America. Despite its being polarized against China ideologically, the US has been trying to normalize relations with this communist giant, because it considers China a potential 21st century superpower.

K. Kamalakaran
Riyadh

Still struggling

Sir – Very soon we will find ourselves in the 21st century. Shamefully enough, the Third World countries are still struggling with a myriad problems. They have nothing to carry with them into the next century except their political unrest and the economic backwardness. On the other hand, the affluent West is fully equipped for the challenges of the future. It will cheerfully welcome the year 2000 as a landmark in its story of fast development.

When will the Third World nations make a determined effort to prepare themselves for the new millennium?

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Palmero is to blame

Sir – For several days now, letters are being published about the NIPSJ problem. It is sickening to note that both sides, the "newly elected but not recognized board" and the Ad Interim Board, seem to ignore the root of this mess.

The truth of the matter is that there is only one person responsible for this mess. It is the NIPSJ OIC, Nenita Palmero, who took advantage of the situation by using the "newly elected but not recognized board" to defy our government and overthrow the Ad Interim Board – all because she hates the guts of the lady Ad Interim Board member. She thought that by helping install the "newly elected but not recognized school board," her countless blunders and shortcomings would be pardoned. That is where she is wrong.

The members of that board are intellectuals whose credentials and achievements are impeccable. They are distinguished Filipinos living in Jeddah. All of them belong to well-known organizations. That is why they have been chosen.

On behalf of the Filipino community in Jeddah ...

protest against what he believed to be the embassy's shortcomings. However, Saavedra's group consisted of only two persons, Saavedra included, and this is hardly an indication that he has the support of a community of 360,000 people.

We encourage Saavedra to take the high road and come to us in the spirit of goodwill and reconciliation. Too much time is wasted in dealing with the baseless accusations of those who pretend to represent the true Filipinos. Instead, we should focus our energies on the unity of our community and the development of our nation.

Miguel R. Bautista
Embassy spokesman
Riyadh

Mostly inaccurate

Sir – I refer to Felix Serrano's letter "Clinging to the Chair" (*Saudi Gazette*, July 10).

With due respect to Serrano, I beg to point out that there were inaccuracies in most of his comments about Jesus Noble Maravilla, acting Philippine ambassador to Saudi Arabia. In some instances, he went out of context, insulting the office of the ambassador by calling his excellency a dictator, troublemaker and master of intrigue. This is unpatriotic and absolutely damaging to the national reputation of the Philippines. For a Filipino to insult his own ambassador is tantamount to insulting his own country and countrymen. I have known Maravilla for a long time. He is an honorable career diplomat respected by the host countries where he has served, representing the Philippines. He is straightforward and professional in his dealings with fellow Filipinos. He is tough and always goes direct to the point with people who go astray. He hates to play politics – rather he concentrates on his duties in the embassy. It is not fair on the part of Serrano to accuse Maravilla of clinging to his chair. As a matter of fact, he was only following a directive from the Philippine Foreign Affairs officials that he should hold on to his office as acting ambassador until the arrival of the newly appointed ambassador.

There is no truth in the statement that Ambassador Maravilla issued an order to dissolve the newly elected board of the New International Philippine School in Jeddah. He was merely following an order from the Philippine Foreign Affairs under secretary, Leonides Caday, to postpone the elections to the school board until the Manual of Regulations is discussed with the parents and teaching staff.

In fact, under secretary Caday will visit the Kingdom August 8, accompanied by the Filipino Overseas Commissioner, Jose Molano, and D... Mendoza of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, to brief the parents and teaching staff on the new Manual of Regulations for Philippine Schools Abroad. The group is also expected to look into the problems involving the Philippine School in Jeddah. It is obvious th... Felix Serrano has some ill feelings for Ambassador Maravilla for reasons only known to himself. However, he cannot destroy the acting ambassador as his allegations are unfounded. But he h... succeeded in besmirching the image and reputation of the office of the ambassador of the Philippines in Riyadh. Is this patriotism?

Dr Mohd Ali Carlito L. Astille
Riya...

Congratulations

Sir – Morocco's Hicham El Guerrouj has brok... the 1500 meters world athletic record at ... Golden Gala International Athletic Meet ... Rome. He erased more than one second off ... previous record set by Noureddine Morcelli ... Guerrouj set an incredible time of 3 minutes ... seconds.

1968 Mexico Olympic gold medalist Kip K... no, 1980 gold medalists Sebastian Coe and St...

: need for gun control

ice officers and the wounding
t at the United States Capitol
which houses the Senate and
atives has focused attention
can politicians in a nation
ith privately-owned firearms.
raised the courage of the two
gh the sacrifice of their lives
uch greater tragedy.
gton fly at half-mast in honor of
estigation has been launched
Russell Eugene Weston, a man
ice records as a "low-level
ave written threatening letters
far as he did.
hat Weston, who was himself
was the typical "loner" with,

according to the *Miami Herald*, a grudge against the president and "various other public officials." This follows the usual pattern of sociopaths who feel that the Federal government represents an intrusion into the rights and freedoms of the individual, in particular the freedom of individual Americans to possess and carry weapons.

The *Herald* reports that Weston believed that a satellite dish pointing at his house in Montana was spying on him and that the government had planted landmines on his property which has now been sealed off by the authorities.

Weston's father, Russell senior, told the *Herald* that his son suffered from mental illness and had left the family home in Illinois last Thursday after shooting more than a dozen cats at the request of his grandmother, and taking a .38 caliber revolver with him when he left.

One unidentified American politician is qu
saying that the Weston incident is an examp
price which democracy must pay to maintai
This is the type of rhetorical flourish which c
fact that the problems of widespread private
gun-ownership and the dangers which stem
uniquely American problems.

The clinically insane exist everywhere but
other country in the Western world except A
they have such easy access to weapons. Th
the United States is routinely tarnished by st
lone gunmen going on the rampage and ca
bloody massacres.

Whatever sympathy the international comr
might have for the victims of such horrendou
is always tempered by the knowledge that u
some effort is made to control public access
then such tragedies are certain to continue.



e eludes
; masses in
ıern Sudan

Famines will continue until there is peace in Sudan, but peace has proved elusive. The reason: It is in no one's interest except the wretched and politically impotent farmers who must watch their children die.

giving before."

Even without the rebel food tax, the massive infusion of aid helps the insurgents' military position, because their leaders do not have to pay the political price for causing the people they declare they are liberating to starve to death.

"If the UN is willing to ship 10,000 tons of food to the front line, don't tell me that doesn't have an impact," said one diplomat in Khartoum, who insisted on anonymity.

After 15 years of stalemate, it is beginning to look as if the war is unwinnable. Neither side appears to have the logistical

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Israel will never make peace

Sir – The Israeli prime minister will never make peace with the Palestinians. The many agreements made by the previous government with the Palestinians have not been implemented and things are now going from bad to worse in the Mid-east. The only solution is to get the United States and the European Union more involved so as to force Israel to give the Palestinians their rights. Israelis ask for security, but since 1948 they have taken much more than they are being asked to give. Security is a weak excuse. They must carry out what they have agreed with the Arabs.

Hashim Ibrahim
Makkah

US wants to spy on India

Sir – Bangladesh has done a wise thing by rejecting America's offer of defense collaboration. Thus, it has impeded the spread of American hegemony in the Indian subcontinent.

Is Bangladesh in dire straits that America is so concerned to sign a defense treaty in haste with this subcontinent nation which borders the Bay of Bengal?

Even if that is so, where was America when East Pakistan (Bangladesh) was being annihilated in the early 1970s by the present Pakistan? On the contrary, did the US not strive against the humiliated Bangladesh by sending its Seventh Fleet to discourage India from liberating the helpless people of Bangladesh from the humiliation they received at the hands of the Pakistani army? At that point in history, America was a staunch ally of Pakistan, and, therefore, did not favor the formation of Bangladesh.

If the US desires to help this poor nation, there are various other non-military needs for which Bangladesh is craving. In reality, offering an olive branch only to enhance military ties via some defense agreement with this Indian subcontinent nation is a sure indication of America's vested interests in the region.

Perhaps America wants to install nuclear monitoring devices in Bangladesh, near India's borders so as to spy on Indian nuclear and space activities, particularly, at this time when India is feared to have gone ahead of America and Russia in research and development of thermonuclear devices – a field which is still baffling the host

school community. It was this inter
caused us an unnecessary waste of
school year by paying a whole year'
house rent for a school principal who
to Jeddah. The interference never s
neither do the crises ended.

He also argued that the possible br
the school into two would not be via
were you when the IPSJ science s
created from the old PSJ? It started wi
students in 1995 and surged to over 4
in 1997, and with much lower tuit
proved to be economically viable anc
portantly, quality education was
achieved.

The machinations of the Espaldc
Guinomla-Molano-Mendoza-Palmero
caused all the problems of both the IF
NIPSJ. Look at this scenario now: one
the merger, the NIPSJ is still unlicense
other schools existing that teach the Fi
riculum; the promised school principal
come; there are two school boards in c
quality of education is at its lowest; th
fied teachers are back; chaos and
abound. Who and what suffer? The ch
the parents' pockets!

Whoever thinks that the arrival nex
the DECS officials, Mendoza and Mol
paint a different picture must be hall
These two have been moving back an
the last two years or so, plus the arriv
quicid last time, has not led to any solu
ment except the prolonging of the ago
Filipino schoolchildren and the burdeni
parents with more expenses. What do
them for now? To explain a school ma
we have known about for the last two ye

Danilo

Filipino school crisis – II

Sir – I am one of the "silent majority" o
of the New International Phillipine Sch
dah (NIPSJ). The problems regarding ou
that I have been reading about in your
have made me worried about the educatio
children. We heard about all of these p
many years ago and the people "behind th
are the same old faces!



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to President Nelson Mandela in October. If the TRC failed to present a balanced report, Viljoen said, Thabo Mbeki, who is to succeed Mandela next year, will have to embark on a new effort to find direction for reconciliation.

"The credibility of the TRC among my constituency and Afrikaners has been reduced to nil," Viljoen said. The Freedom Front's views on the failure of the TRC are echoed by some 70 percent of white South Africans according to a recent survey.

Many white South Africans accepted the principles of and goals of the TRC, but it would appear that a general perception of bias on the part of victims of apartheid existed. Sheila Camerer of the National Party said the TRC had only aggravated racial disharmony. "Our leadership took political and moral responsibility. We acknowledged the system of apartheid was wrong. We feel the right route is to find out the truth and make reparation for the victims," she said in an interview.

But according to Slack, with white South Africans having been disempowered as a group from a supreme political position where blacks were subservient to whites, racial disharmony at this point should be expected.

Tutu recently announced that the Commission had succeeded in exposing the evils of apartheid through its work. In the opinion of the outspoken former Anglican archbishop, reconciliation involved exposing falsehood and confronting people with the truth. The challenge, he has said, remained with individuals in South Africa and their endeavors toward reconciliation. – DPA

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On January 23, at an Oval Office photo session, Clinton denied allegations that he had had an affair with Lewinsky or told anyone to lie about it, but noted that he wanted to answer the legitimate questions that remained even after his denial

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Bombay's 'illegal' immigrants

Sir – The Shiv Sena-BJP government in Maharashtra is deporting Bengali-speaking Muslims to Bangladesh on the ground that they are illegal immigrants. But it may be wrong in asserting this. The Maharashtra government has forgotten that half of Bengal is in India, that a large number of Bengali-speaking Muslims are residing in this state and that they are therefore citizens of India.

A number of questions arise from this situation. Can the Maharashtra government decide who is an Indian and who is an alien? Is it the crime of these Muslims that they are Bengali-speaking? If the people concerned are truly illegal immigrants does the state government have the power to deport them? If the Shiv Sena and BJP sincerely want to deport all illegal immigrants, then why are they not taking action against many non-Muslims residing in India illegally?

It is also reported that, under the name Bengalis, Muslims from Bihar and UP are also being deported. So the Maharashtra government is now deporting Bengali-speaking Muslims but next they may well deport Urdu-speaking Muslims on the ground that they are Pakistanis.

Maharashtra Home Minister Gopinath Munde said that he would not allow Bangladeshis to reside in his state and that if the West Bengal government has any love for them then it should allow them to reside there. Munde has forgotten that Indian people are free to move and settle anywhere in India, and Maharashtra is a part of India. It is not an independent state or the property of any political party. It is a business center and so naturally people from all over India have the right to go there in search of jobs. Shiv Sena was created with the ideology of spreading regionalism, and deportation is one aspect of this. Can political parties survive by propagating this kind of philosophy? Certainly not.

It is the responsibility of all right-thinking Indians to raise their voices against injustice and to fight against it. If there are Bangladeshis living in India illegally, then their cases should be considered by courts and not by the political leaders of Shiv Sena and the BJP.

A. Salam
Tabuk

Remedy to East Asia crisis

Sir – East Asia has a variety of financial and political problems. But the IMF is not going to solve these by giving money to the governments to distribute to the same groups who got them into this situation in the first place.

East Asian companies have tremendous foreign debts. They should very simply default on the loans, which are greater than the value of the companies. The foreign banks would end up losing, not the populace of these countries. The factories would still operate. The jobs would still be there. The people would still receive their pay checks, and the debt would be erased. Bankrupt companies do not disappear, they get new owners. The shareholders and the international banks would be the only ones to lose, but they have already lost 80 percent, an additional 20 percent would not be much of a loss for them to accept.

The politically powerful owners of these companies would benefit their countries by giving up their ownership to the foreign lending institutions. They would relieve themselves of debt, and their country of the foreign currency obligations. What a great deal for both. But why won't it happen? The nearly non-existent bankruptcy laws are part of the problem, but during the past year laws could have been passed if they were of interest to the governments. They were not. The people who own and manage/mismanage the Asian conglomerates also dominate the political sphere. They have no interest in losing their empires to foreigners. Non-nationals of these Asian countries cannot own a company or property there. A foreign bank cannot take over a company which has defaulted on its loans.

The tycoons of Asia, in default to foreigners and said to be broke, still own the property, farms, banks, companies and the "means of production" in their countries. This gives them the power to continue to run the economies and policies as they always have. They do not want to give up this right. And they control the legislative bodies so they will not have to give up their empires.

For the improvement of their peoples' condition, these countries should both allow foreign ownership and pass bankruptcy legislation. The careless cronies should lose their empires (economic and political); companies in these countries should no longer have to service a foreign currency debt ...

dent well as he spoke with clarity and eloquence. India correctly concluded that he was colluding with China and forcefully rejected his proposal for mediation. Taipei also understood his message clearly, "...it was angered ... and assailed Washington and Beijing for taking Taiwan's fate into their own hands." The Republicans saw through his tricks, which confirmed their suspicions that sensitive missile technology had been transferred and funds received for his campaign; they also considered Clinton's comments about Taiwan to be "counterproductive."

Actually, many must have misunderstood him. The tapes have now been examined and here is a specimen of the speech and the way I think it could have been interpreted!

President: We Americans put a man on moon in 1969 and then brought him back safely. Subsequently, we sent many shuttles for space exploration. We have also placed a probe on Mars, and the day is not far off when an American will land there, thus fulfilling man's dream of ruling the universe.

Interpreter: Americans started going to the moon in 1969 and, by repeated shuttle services, most of them have migrated there. The remainder will go to Mars with their robes and then China can rule the world.

President: We respect human rights in America. Everybody is free to live his own life the way he wants to, and we have no dissidents. China should try to emulate us.

Interpreter: We write with our right hands (some do with their left too), drive on the right side of the road and do not have accidents. The Chinese should learn to do the same.

President: We want cooperation from the Chinese military to control the spread of nuclear weapons in South Asia, especially in view of the Indian and Pakistani tests.

Interpreter: With China's help we want to conduct military operations to monitor and control India's – and another country's – nuclear capabilities.

President: We say no to "two Chinas" and three no's to Taiwan. We want the status quo to continue and problems between us solved by negotiation. China should not use its military might; that would sour its relationships and make us very uncomfortable.

Interpreter: China should not break the noses of the Taiwanese by military might because that would hurt them and make us uncomfortable.

President: I was delighted to see the grandeur of the Great Wall but it is not as high and splendid as our Niagara Falls, which the Chinese should visit to enhance their perceptions.

Interpreter: I think that a wall has fallen. The president warns the Chinese against taking Viagra because it will enhance the chances of conceptions and alter population projections.

No, the Chinese did not complain about the quality of the interpretation. In fact the interpreter has been recommended for the Nobel Prize, despite Clinton's persistent protests.

Raj Behl
Jeddah

Global village

Sir – We live in a very small world. Communication between all people – through a great variety of modern means – is easy no matter how far apart they live. It is also relatively easy for people and goods to move between any two places in the world. We truly live in a global village, and can only wait to see what further miraculous developments are in store for us.

Hashim Ibrahim
Jeddah

Children at war

Sir – Around the world, the fields in which children work and play are laced with 100 million mines. Boys as young as 9 are coerced or forced into becoming soldiers, even though international protocols forbid the use of children under 15 as soldiers and employees. Those who do not take up arms are left to fight other battles, supporting families in which one or both parents have been killed, or struggling to survive on their own as orphans and street children.

In Afghanistan, an entire generation has been raised amid one of the world's longest-running and most devastating wars – first in 11 years of a brutal war against Soviet occupation, and for the past three years, in a renewal of tribal conflicts. In this war, and others around the globe this century, children increasingly have become casualties.

During this century, the proportion of ...

ıan dilemma

l before the lower house ntroduced by the ts, which would have generation immigrants ıip, was defeated. This million Turks at present ıtomatic right to a German them are now

ced in 1913 – is based on than place of birth or was a recent decision by Turkish family because convicted of criminal ther of the boy in ed in Germany for thirty years. Expressing his bitterness, the father blamed the court's decision on the coming national elections in which the subjects of immigration and unemployment are likely to figure prominently. Opposition parties are making much of nationally high levels of unemployment and the presence of so many foreign workers in Germany which took in more refugees from the conflict in Bosnia than any other European country.

The Germans, of course, have a perfect right to determine who should and should not receive citizenship in their own country. What is alarming about the present situation, however, is the willingness of mainstream political parties such as Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) to play along with some of the more racially-inspired themes of right-wing opposition groups. Given German history, pandering to the right might seem inadvisable. Perhaps the greatest must be that the authoritarian trend in German politics appears to enjoy the greatest support ir east of the country, that part once under the co the communists. In a way, this is hardly surprisi The authoritarianism of the fascist era simply g way to that of the post-war communist era. In th western part of Germany, at least, people have more than half a century to adapt to a more libe tradition. In the east, it seems, old habits die ha

Blaming foreigners for a country's economic social woes has a long and dishonorable histo just in Germany but in virtually every country in world. In the long run, expediency is rarely a sc foundation on which to base national policy. Inevitably, the question must sooner or later ari about what motivates German opposition to Tu membership of the European Union.



t of the gab



By Khalid Bin Wakil

ıations though, have no such nhibitions about small talk. So t is hardly a matter of region or ven climate. In the olden days, he English race had a reputation for aloofness. It was reputed that two Englishmen (or women) would not exchange a word unless and until they had been properly introduced. The availability of a third party, therefore, was a prerequisite to et a conversation going. And ot any third party at that; it had to be someone well acquainted with both the parties in question.

There are several nations, those residents in South and West Asia thoroughly enjoy a good session of small talk. Such n occasion is relished not for ny serious purpose but just to liar to different people in the art of conversation. Certain nations for instance, are very mild and soft spoken; others are rough and gruff. Still others, like the French, talk as much with their hands as their tongue.

Different nations express the same things in entirely different fashions. Certain nations in the Far East, for instance, avoid having to say "no" even when they mean it. This sometimes leads to embarrassing and at times, amusing situations.

There is this story of a foreign delegation that was visiting Japan in the 50s to negotiate an economic accord. The delegation would call at the concerned Japanese office day after day returning with the impression that the matter was making headway and a positive outcome was imminent. After five days of this charade, the country's ambassador was summoned to the Japanese Foreign Office.

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Investments in Mid-east

Sir – Investments will only flow into a region, or into an individual country, if peace prevails there. No peace, no investments – it is as simple as that. Furthermore, without investments a sound economy cannot be developed and the quality of life of the people improved.

These facts of economic life have great relevance for the Mid-east. In this area there is great potential for economic development and no basic reason why business should not thrive, but the main precondition is a peace settlement for the Palestine region. Let us have true peace there and everything else will flow from it.

Hashim L Filali
Jeddah

Disaster zone

Sir – This is with reference to the news item "Delhi dubbed a disaster zone" (*Saudi Gazette*, July 29) in which it was reported that Delhi has the fourth worst air pollution of all the cities in the world. The item also referred to the Supreme Court's banning of 15-year-old buses from the roads, which is, of course, an excellent measure. However, sad to say, public-service buses are not the only causes of air pollution in Delhi; in fact they form only a small percentage of the problem.

If the Supreme Court would like to prevent pollution, it should start with old three-wheeler auto-rickshaws which are the main cause of air pollution in the capital. Either these should be completely replaced with other vehicles or a strict method of pollution-control should be adapted for them – and also two-wheeler scooters – and any offenders should be punished.

Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses are the second worst polluters of the city. These are controlled by the Delhi municipal authority which should correct the situation before petitions are filed against it by environmentalists.

Delhi has too many vehicles for the available road space. It is therefore essential that the roads be improved as overcrowded roads, often jammed with traffic, add greatly to air pollution.

The main responsibility for pollution-control is therefore in the hands of the government which should come up with practical ways to solve the problem. Then it can look into the other problems that plague the lives of the people...

ticians usually say, he must have been pr to move heaven and earth to meet the w mands of the capital, which has suffere searing heat this year.

Nature has been very kind to India in g enormous water resources but these have n utilized properly. Could it be true, as we h the grapevine, that the CM fainted after the fine and could not be given water bec the taps were dry? And that somebody crowd with a water-bottle proffered hi That would indeed have been poetic justic

Hats off to the police inspector for show sense of duty and carrying out his job witho or favor. In a true democracy, nobody is ab law and this brave and responsible act by spector should be applauded – and it w serve as a warning to all road users. Now i responsibility of his superiors in the polic to see that this gentleman is not victimized commendable action. These superiors m yield to any political pressures on them action against this bold and honest office responsibility will rest with the law-abidin ple of Delhi to make sure that this man punished for doing his duty.

In fact, all Indians should take a leaf ou book of this police officer. They should d duty honestly, treat everybody equally, an to bring to book all those who break the la either practice or encourage corruption. T the only way forward for our country.

With a deep sense of responsibility and found desire to progress, Indians can withst outside unjust pressures. As India cross threshold into the next century, it should b to realize its full potential and direct its st in the right way. I agree with K. Kamalakar not only China, but the entire world will the to give India the place it deserves in the community.

Raj
Je

Well done, compatriot!

Sir – Well done Raj Babbar!

What else can we poor Indians expect people like you? Your unpaid phone amounting to Rs800,000 didn't surprise us least. Further, you showed the magnanimit humility to undergo a jail term to clear of

Saudi Gazette
COMMENT
WEDNES
5 AUGUST

of a continuing battle

m directed at Frank ister, by Prime Minister an, and various Cabinet dy by surprise. Blair's l's talents "...were not rnment department" and are change had been (Field's) proposals were they never took the form plemented by a

rnment minister is policy plans for welfare by Number 10's Policy they had been responded vigorously aying: "If they continue with this rubbishing, they will be shown to be lying. There was a long effort to make sure I was neutered and sidelined by the Department of Social Security. This was led by (former social security minister) Harriet Harman and her accomplices." Field also accused Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown of presiding over an old-style socialist "spending binge" and concluded that the chancellor's plans for welfare reform were likely to "minimize saving and encourage fraud." He added: "I am very glad that I had 12 years fighting Trotskyists in Birkenhead because, if I had not, I do not think I could have survived those fifteen months in the department. It is entirely true that Gordon was trying to block my ideas on pensions. I have kept all the computer disks and I will publish what I proposed to the Welfare Reform Committee." Media reports suggest that Field's plans for a "second-tier stakeholder pension" would have cost in the region of £15 billion to £20 billion annually.

Field's dismissal is significant because, until h downfall, he was generally regarded as one of th most intellectually able government figures. His departure has led some commentators to specul that Blair has "gone soft" on radical changes to th welfare system. Chancellor Brown has promised minimum state pension, regardless of contributic which Field argues would have a "corrupting influence" and penalize self-reliance. Britain's burgeoning welfare budget, now in the region of billion a year, remains a liability for all administrations. Yet pruning that budget is politic sensitive especially for a Labor government with socialist background. Field appears to have beer first casualty in what is certain to be a continuing battle.



ontinues to / default


Between the Lines
BY KULDIP NAYAR

ntsia because of the rough and ıgh methods they have used come up in politics.

But then the two Yadavs are tures in Indian politics. There no escape from them so long the nation remains mired in ste and creed.

Congress does not have even nodicum of following either Bihar or Uttar Pradesh, the o states commanding 139 jee and Mayawati)." The party feels that it has only to wait for "the apple" to ripen and fall in its lap.

In whoever's lap it falls, the general impression, even in the BJP circles, is that the present coalition cannot last long. What happens if Jayalalitha withdraws her support all of a sudden in the question that is debated in Parliament's central hall, which MPs of all parties visit to exchange views? She has the support of 27 MPs while the BJP-led coalition survived the no-confidence motion early this year only by seven votes.

LETTERS

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Third World needs progress

Sir – It is very clear to everyone that people in the US, Europe and the West generally are enjoying good lives and, almost by the day, they experience further improvements which are adding to their quality of life. In contrast, most people in Third World countries are living in misery, with their condition tending to became worse rather than better. They move forward a few steps, then problems arise and they slip back into deeper misery than before. This happens even in those Asian countries that are considered to be the most developed. When will the people of the Third World start a process of steady and irrevocably improvement as they move into the new millennium?

Dr Hashim Ibrahim Hashim
Jeddah

African renaissance

Sir – Africa remains a continent of conflict. Besides the never-ending strife in Somalia, the former brothers-in-arms in Eritrea and Ethiopia are battling it out over a barren piece of land. But on the south-west coast of Africa two brewing conflicts are threatening to spillover into real war. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo soldiers are rebelling against the tyrannical rule of Laurent Kabila. It is an irony that he was imposed on the people of the former Zaire by none other than Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda, who is a close friend and ally of John Garang, another warlord, hell-bent on finding a violent solution to Sudan's political problem. Another country which sided with Kabila, Angola, is facing a resurgent civil war with the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), a former ally of the South African apartheid regime and the American CIA.

South African President Nelson Mandela spoke eloquently about an 'African renaissance"

dialogue. India never fired the first shot ıı conflicts and it remains true to this principl

War would be an unmitigated disaster fo countries, and their people would suffer ı miseries.

The ball is in the Pakistani court.

G.K. D
Je

Wrong end of the stick

Sir – This is in response to C. P. Ali Koya's (*Saudi Gazette*, July 22) in which he criticiz views.

Sadly, Ali got the wrong end of the stic made a flash judgment. I urge him to rea letters, especially the one entitled "Big qu before the Indians." (*Saudi Gazette*, June Surely, he will find me standing nowhere el among the "majority of clear-minded Hı who strongly uphold the secular Constitut India and will never let the "Tricolor be grad merged in the saffron color" or in any other by any party in India or by any power ı world.

The political situation is very volatile in and my basic concern remains that the n could be burdened with another election. know how parties behaved in previous com tions; they were busy pulling the rug from u each other's feet. This practice will continue there is a clear mandate in favor of one par until the leaders attain enough sense and mat to run coalition governments. The frequent matums and continuous squabbling for pow unholy alliances of convenience, however stark reminders that politicians have a lot to l The people of India will have to exercise franchise prudently the next time around.

I criticized Nayar for what I thought was a judgment which, in my view, was wrong. I tainly did not intend to approve of one par

Saudi Gazette

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SATURDAY
8 AUGUST 1998

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parties to honor the determination of our people. Winning or losing is normal as far as democracy is concerned. No one wins all the time."

Cambodia's history over the past three decades has been a violent and painful one. The bombing and invasion of Cambodia by US and South Vietnamese forces in the early 1970s, a "side-show" in the Vietnam war, was followed by the emergence of the Khmer Rouge who took over the country in 1975. By the time they were ousted, in 1979, three million out of the country's eight million people had died in the notorious "killing fields".

The last decade has seen a continuing civil war. Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge's most notorious leader, only died this year. Hun Sen's accession to power has involved the death of 100 political rivals. He is said to control the media, the police and the army and carried out what foreign diplomats in Cambodia's capital city Phnom Penh describe as "... a month-long policy of intimidation," preceding last Sunday's election.

It is hardly surprising under such circumstances that the EU observers have become the object of Cambodian derision. A spokesman for the monitors said: "In the end, efforts to intimidate sections of the Cambodian people appeared not to have significantly influenced the conduct of polling day itself." One Cambodian observer responded to this statement by saying that the EU observers, the majority of whom had only arrived in the country one or two days before the poll, "only looked at the surface and didn't see the reality".

As one somewhat cynical Westerner said of the EU's "ringing endorsement" of the way the voting was conducted: "First they covered their eyes and ears and now they are biting their tongues".



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converted into a Hyde Park where several workers organizations have established hunger strike camps to protest against the retrenchment of thousands of workers from various public sector organizations and non payment of salaries to the laborers.

The business community in general and the jewelers in particular are also protesting against the levy of general sales tax. Jewelers have been on strike for the last 20 days and have announced that they would rather close their shops indefinitely than pay the GST. The National Labor Federation, backed by the Jamaat-e-Islami, announced at a press conference Wednesday that it will stage a "workers unity march" to unite the workers against the government.

And the tragic irony is that sectarian strife has again raised

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Western interference

Sir – The countries of the West have very good political systems that have enabled them to establish their present enviable way of life. These systems have, in one way or the other, been imported into many countries of the Mid-east and elsewhere.

However, the West is using its influence to prevent them from operating smoothly, Algeria being a good example of this. The countries of the West are essentially selfish, wishing to keep the benefits of modern living for themselves.

Indeed, they continue to interfere in the affairs of other countries, even those from whom they are far removed and in which they have no direct interests.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Babri Masjid

Sir – This has reference to the statements issued by the VHP and RSS about the construction of a temple on the demolished site of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. What do these parties want to prove by issuing such statements? If they think that they are spreading Hindutva, they are wrong. In fact they are inviting riots.

As the case of Ayodhya is being considered by the Supreme Court, those parties are devaluing that court. It is necessary that the Supreme Court takes some action to reassert its authority or Muslims will feel that there is no protection for them under the law of the land.

There are many journalists and newsmen in India. They are there to reveal the truth and have no attachment to any political party or community. They try to tell the facts as they are and we all appreciate their work. They must now tell the world what is going on in India.

Many freedom fighters gave their lives so that Indians could be free. But what has really been gained for the people since independence? All Indians in all the communities should unite and denounce illegal acts. The same policy has been chosen by the offending parties as that used successfully by the British to rule over us; namely "divide and rule". If Indians are united then no one can divide us and harass us in the name of religion or anything else. We must not allow our great freedom fighters' sacrifice to go to waste.

After coming to power, the politicians have become corrupt and enriched themselves. The public have ignored this but when these people attack the community in the name of religion this [illegible] All our Muslims have full faith

Whenever communal riots take place in India we are grieved. When we see it stated that the different communities in India have misunderstandings with each other it is very painful for us. We should ignore those things that have divided us in the past. India is such a populous country with so many communities living together that we must show the world that we are indeed one people. All Indians are our brothers and sisters and we are proud to be Indians.

Shaikh Muhammad Biyazuddin
Jizan

Bombay tragedy

Sir – This is written with reference to the report "Collapsed Bombay building" (*Saudi Gazette* August 5).

It is well-known that Bombay is one of the most crowded cities of the world; every single piece of land is utilized and every possible corner is occupied, even on the sidewalks.

As for the buildings, several of those in central Bombay are supported on makeshift columns which have lost their strength and are being reinforced by bamboos. Nobody knows when these buildings will fall to the ground, creating a graveyard for their residents.

The main question about these structures relates to who will repair or rebuild them. Should it be the residents themselves or the state government? The condition of half of the residents is as bad as that of their unsafe buildings. The lives of these people are also being supported precariously by some sort of unseen bamboos. How can they come forward to save their buildings or even to save their own lives? If the state government decides to take action then there will be the question of temporary shelters for the occupants.

Making these delapidated buildings safe is a huge task which will take some time to complete but it requires urgent attention. A start on the work must be made very soon if great tragedies are to be avoided.

Nadir Khan Sirguroh
Makkah

Taif Indian school

Sir – Reports of the brilliant success in obtaining a license for the International Indian School in Taif are indeed glad tidings.

This is a great achievement on the part of the present management committee, Dr [illegible] Naim Ahmed Ismail and Shakeel Khan. All the credit goes to these three people.

We hope that the management will [illegible]

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who are working for or who have worked for the security and intelligence services. If they believed they could publish their memories or sell their stories with impunity, no secret would be safe and no informant would trust the intelligence services." In the BBC interview, however, Shayler, argued that he was merely acting as a "whistleblower" – someone determined to reveal incompetence and maladministration concealed from public view by a veil of secrecy.

government ministers of involvement but implicated some officials. This suggested, once again, that government ministers were not in control of events and, in fact, were having policy determined by their subordinates. Britain now stands accused of involvement in two instances in Africa of what certain circles might describe as "state-sponsored terrorism" within the last two years. In the light of the recent incidents in Tanzania and Kenya, Shayler's revelations could not come at a worse time.



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the Security Council's Permanent Members – the United States, Britain, France, Russia, and China – decided to punish Bosnia, the victim, by imposing upon it the so-called Owen-Stoltenberg Plan (to carve the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina into three ethnically based mini-states. This, Boyle notes, would destroy Bosnia's statehood and rob Bosnia of membership in the United Nations.

According to a study prepared by the US Department of State, this partition of Bosnia would subject over 1.5 million Bosnians to "ethnic cleansing."

The architects of ethnic cleansing, Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his army commander, Gen. Ratko Mladic, although indicted for war crimes, remain at large. Fewer than half of those indicted for genocide during the Bosnian war have been arrested. *USA Today* editorializes that the fact that they remain free five years after a temporary tribunal indicted them is "a living monument to the Pentagon's timidity in pursuing them." The newspaper concludes that temporary tribunals "present permanent problems." Months pass while lawyers, prosecutors and staff get assembled. And years pass before some of the world's worst criminals are brought to justice, if ever. Political complexities also delay justice. In Iraq, for example, repeated pleas to hold Saddam accountable for his gassing of civilians in the war with Iran went nowhere, in part because there was nowhere to turn. The International Court of Justice at The Hague (the World Court) only hears cases when one state files a complaint against another."

This experience argues powerfully for a permanent interna-

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Eliminating misconceptions

Sir – I would like to give my wholehearted support to the views expressed in the letter of Shaikh Riyazuddin (*Saudi Gazette*, Aug. 8). It is a wonderful feeling that there are still a lot of clear-minded people of all religions in India who want to build peace and prosperity in the country. There is a golden opportunity now before us but how effectively we utilize it depends on us alone.

I have been in close touch with Hindus as well as Muslims for a long time and feel that a portion of both communities have certain misconceptions about the other. The Hindus doubt the loyalty of Indian Muslims, especially vis-a-vis Pakistan, which is regrettable. To appreciate the Muslim community and its views on all issues, one should mingle closely with them or should read the Urdu media which shows their views. Urdu writing, including novels and magazines, has always tried to nurture nationalism and patriotism. For their part, the Muslims always have a feeling that, in case of any injustice done to them, the majority community will not stand up for them. This is because of many unfortunate incidents especially that of the Babri Masjid. However, the vast majority of Hindus denounce such intolerable activities. It is also a fact that the Muslims have suffered greater losses so far. A few unfortunate incidents on the part of some hard-liners, on both the sides, should not be used to judge the mentality of the people. At the personal level, the relationships between people of the two religions have always been of the very best sort. The media plays a vital role in forming the character of a society and, as Riyazuddin has rightly observed, the judiciary and newsmen have always been neutral and done their best to improve relations between Hindus and Muslims in India. There is also another group of people, those in the entertainment industry, who have done a splendid job – more than anyone else – through films and TV serials to promote friendship and trust between the different communities. It is regrettable that, in spite of all this good work, problems have surfaced to show their ugly face through violence.

The question before us now is how we are going to tackle these problems. The first thing that we should do is to reject the communal parties. We should bring back the United Front which gave us a wonderful government that performed excellently in spite of a large number of uneducated or poorly educated MPs among them. We should also use such ways as this letters column to express our solidarity and build confidence. We should not neglect any way to fight communalism. Religion should have its rightful place and politics should have its own place. I would like to join Riyaz in inviting more readers to participate in this column of the *Saudi Gazette* and express their views on this matter which will help us rediscover our lost era of peace and happiness.

Anbu Nesan
Riyadh

New World Order

Sir – The United Nations may have suffered from low expectations during the Cold War, but today the world expects much more of it. The end of the Cold War, I believe, will transform or even end the traditional nation-state system. The UN will have to implement a number of measures.

The New World Order that will emerge as the nation-state loses its relevance in the next century

Secretariat should be reinforced. Second, UN peacekeeping operations are playing an ever more important role and need proper support to continue in that direction. The successful elections in Namibia, Cambodia and El Salvador testify to the essential role of the peacekeepers' election-monitoring and observation units. Civilian participation is becoming increasingly important. I therefore suggest the endowment of a memorial medal honoring the contributions of civilian participants.

Third, the post of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights needs adequate support and resources. The protection of human rights can be assured only if a multitude of conditions prevails. These include political stability, established legal procedures, an ample number of jurists, wide public awareness of the importance of human rights, economic development and a rise in living standards. These conditions demand considerable effort over time. To facilitate change, the UN must offer advisory activities to establish due process of law. Public information programs are important. A strong, permanent secretariat will be needed; close coordination among the relevant UN agencies is crucial. I would propose that the UN Center for Human Rights be given increased resources and that the coordinating role of the High Commissioner for Human Rights within the UN system be consolidated.

Don Asoka Wijewardhena
Tabuk

Superpower syndrome

Sir – It is an amazing feature of the present world situation that the US, the one superpower, feels that it can do whatever it wants. US influence sees that sanctions are imposed on this or that country, and that they are maintained for considerable periods regardless of the justice of the particular case.

As a result of these measures, the ordinary people of the countries concerned have to suffer untold misery. This is the case with Iraq, despite the arrangement to exchange a certain amount of oil for food and medicines, and also Libya, Sudan and Iran. The Indian and Pakistani people could well be the next to suffer because of the heavy hand of US sanctions. These measures can be imposed very quickly but it takes a long time to get them lifted. The United Nations Security Council seems to do the will of the US in the matter of these unfair sanctions.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

East Africa bombings – I

Sir – There we have it again. The moment the two bombs exploded in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam critics fell over their own feet to rush into blaming Muslims for the attack. It reminded me of the Oklahoma City bombing where Muslims were placed under suspicion, yet it turned out to be a white American right-winger who placed the bomb. But nobody called it a "Christian bomb." McVeigh and Terry Nichols just happened to be Christians. But Christianity cannot be blamed for their heinous brutality.

In the US, more white right-wing, Christian or Zionist-oriented acts of terror are committed than by Muslims. Yet Muslims are always blamed

The fact is that Islam neither condones, nor allows the killing of innocent civilians during war

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. City bombing.
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ıclude Israeli Jews:

Africa dominate international consciousness ... Netanyahu may make this point uninterrupted," Abramowitz asserts.

There also seems to be some link between increased incidence of terrorism and extremists coming to power in Israel.

Perpetrators of a crime always seek some gains. If the logic of Netanyahu and the Western media is

countries where the US State Department says its embassy is under threat. A Malaysian official feels that such statements are going to have a bad effect on the county's economy.

The American "concern is about outsiders who may have entered Malaysia." These outsiders may well be the agents of Mossad, the world's most notorious terrorist outfit.



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nmerman, Buchanan, and
thers all share another
on, and ominous, theme:
and for swift retribution.
ntent to wait for investi-
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rts" and columnists de-
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model in this regard is the
US air strike against Libya
liation for the bombing of
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at these hawks omit is that
idence linking the Libyans
s attack is equivocal, and

The investigations in both Kenya and Tanzania are moving forward carefully and without undue publicity. Patient detective work helped bring to justice the bombers of the World Trade Center, the assassin of commuters outside CIA headquarters in Virginia and the Oklahoma City bomber.

Given time, and a proper response to the $2 million award offered in this case, the criminals who committed this atrocity might well be brought to justice. And so far, mercifully, there has been no "backlash" against Arab and Muslim Americans, despite the overheated rhetoric of the fearmongers.

There will be, no doubt, lessons to be learned from this tragedy. Upgrades in the security of US installations worldwide are certain to be undertaken, and there is an obvious need for greater international intelligence and police cooperation to help prevent such acts from occurring.

But by no means should the "lessons" be that the United States is inevitably locked in a "war" with the Mid-east or the Islamic world, or that America should pullback from its regional or global involvement. So long as the United States remains a global power, its policies and its very presence will generate adversaries, some of whom have murderous intent. In a way, this is the transferal to an international scale of the kind of envy that leads disturbed individuals to stalk celebrities or try to kill public figures. But such threats can and should be contained.

When terrorist acts take place, every effort must be made to apprehend and try the suspects in an appropriate court of law.

Knee-jerk responses, whether instant blame, overwhelming retaliation, or complete regional withdrawal, do not bring the dead back to life or prevent future violence. As the govern-

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Help for stranded Pakistanis

Sir – It was interesting to read the interview with Syed Muazzam Ali, former consul general of Bangladesh in Jeddah, and especially his comments about the help given by his country to the Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh since December 1971. While we should appreciate the help that is being given, we hear different stories in the media which tell about the precarious living conditions of these people and how they survive on meager help from various organizations. Last month's floods devastated many camps of the stranded Pakistanis and no one helped with their repair. There are no regular supplies of medicine, food and clothing for those people. While I would urge our Pakistani government to give relief, it is nevertheless the responsibility of the Bangladeshi government to help these unfortunate people until they can be repatriated to their homeland. This is the minimum we can expect from our brotherly Muslim country.

Khurshid Ahmed
Jeddah

Neither Eastern nor Western

Sir – Turkey occupies a very strange position in the world, belonging neither to the West nor the East. It could have formed a bridge between the two but has, in fact, become divorced from both. It has not been accepted as a member of the European Union although it has tried hard to please the West. At the same time, Turkey does not consider itself part of the Mid-east, having rejected the Arabic language and become a secular state though most of its people are Muslims. Because it cannot find a home in any grouping of states, Turkey has turned to Israel and begun to cooperate with that country. For its part, Israel welcomes Turkey as an ally because of its conflict with the Arabs. It is strange and unexpected to find Turkey, formerly a great Islamic empire, adopting this role.

Hashim Ibrahim Hashim
Jeddah

Report on Bombay riots

Sir – At long last the Srikrishna Commission has finalized its report on the Bombay riots which followed the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992-93. It was tabled in the assembly on August 6.

The involvement of the Shiv Sena and its chief Bal Thackeray in these riots has been an open secret since 1992 but now the Srikrishna Commission Report has confirmed it.

Like every leader in such circumstances, Bal Thackeray has rejected the report and expressed his opinion that "The chief minister has rejected the report. Actually, he has done a very good job. My compliments to him". According to this statement Thackeray thinks he is the hero of India. By no means does he want to accept guilt.

Very few people know about Bal Thackeray outside India. I would, therefore, like to provide the following information about him:

Balasaheb Thackeray is the chief of the Shiv Sena and a well-known personality from Maharashtra. According to him, he is the true follower of Maharaja Shivaji. In Indian history, Shivaji's name is written in golden letters. It is said about him that, during the period of the Mughal Empire, he was a guerrilla who fought effectively against the empire.

The Shiv Sena party was founded by Bal Thackeray to follow in the footsteps of Maharaja Shivaji and to honor his sacrifices in the interests

neither had him arrested nor penalized him for making such statements.

Now the government of Maharashtra, controlled by Bal Thackeray, is harassing Bengali-speaking people and forcing them to leave India because they are said to have come from Bangladesh.

Maybe these people came from Calcutta and not from Bangladesh but the government of Maharashtra wants to expel them without investigating the facts. I ask a simple question to these leaders: If this type of policy was adopted by countries all over the world, would not millions of people of Indian origin will have to be deported to India from their respective countries?

In conclusion, I would like to say that if the government of India accepts the report of the Srikrishna Commission and takes action against the various people who were involved in the Bombay communal riots, then the families of the people killed in the Bombay riots will get justice.

Yahya Khan
Jeddah

Dumping patients with dirt

Sir – This has reference to the news item "Hospital dumps patient in garden to impress minister." (*Saudi Gazette*, August 7).

How did the hospital staff become so callously indifferent to the well-being of the patient? How could the management go so deplorably against professional ethics?

The patient was dumped in the garden in orde: to clean the hospital environment, as if he were the wreckage of a car or a bicycle.

The hospital is the place for patients, and thei: care is more important than a minister's visit. It is not an art gallery to captivate its visitors. On the contrary, treating the patients with loving care is itself half the cure and a splendid way to impres visitors. Moradabad hospital must have dumpec its morality somewhere in the morgue along with those who once came into the hospital as live human beings.

The comment of the hospital superintenden was also deplorable. He just said, "This is not a big issue". We cannot imagine what might be considered a big issue for this hospital.

Nadir Khan Sirgurol
Makkal

Gazette in other languages

Sir – I enjoy reading the *Saudi Gazette* for it coverage of the news and features. I particularly enjoy Kuldip Nayar's column highlighting the political issues of the Indian subcontinent. I believe that the *Gazette* provides good coverage o home news for most expatriates especially the Asians. This is quite transparent from the wide popularity it enjoys among the Asians. Being a Indian, I always prefer to read the Indian page o your daily to have first-hand information abou what is going on back home.

Recently, another daily has started a page i the Indonesian language. So I would like to re quest that you too set up a page in each of th major Asian vernacular languages such as Taga log, Urdu and Malayalam, at least on alternat days. Though there is an Urdu newspaper availa ble, I prefer not to read it because of its bias. I lik very much to get my news from the *Saudi Gazett* family that reflects the views of a neutral ob server with an unexaggerated, no-nonsense an objective approach. Moreover, you are fortunat to have well-known writers already available t you who have got good experience with their re

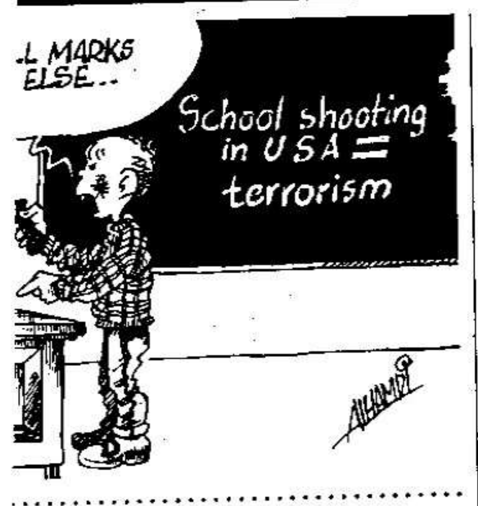
its
enjamin
ns.
k is confirmed
's proposal.
llan said that the
sanctions, and
Palestinian
of peace."
underline.
where he talked

peace and he thinks that if the world community
particularly the United States, is unable to pressure Israel through normal civilized means, then sanctions are the other alternative.

The Palestinians, or the Arabs for that matter, have not broken down the peace process. The negotiations were halted only when the Netanyahu regime decided that all the international agreements signed by the previous Israeli government had to be renegotiated. Sensible nations do not accept this as good diplomacy.

pointing at the government he represented.

The Palestinians have never rejected negotiations as a means to reach peace. It is the Israeli government which is showing hostility to peace and putting obstacles in the way of a negotiated settlement. This Israeli policy calls for stronger action from the world community. After all, the world often goes for harsher measures when dishonest nations break the law. Such measures work, as they did against Serbia in recent times.



ı Irish peace
perative

. said she is thinking of Northern Ireland to ex- r "disgust" at the pros- the release of her hus- killers. An embittered : said: "Myra Hindley's ail after 30 years. If she'd get out of jail there would ublic outcry and you'd hear the end of it. In n Ireland we have mass ers as well, but they are ing a few years and then home to their wives and ends. Life, for them, mean life." Despite Mrs k's concerns, it has now announced that 400 con- terrorist inmates have re- paperwork which will e process leading to their . Many of them could be the streets in a matter of s.

of those who could soon eased is William Moore, a er of the Protestant Shan- oad Gang responsible for 19 Catholics by slitting throats. The 49-year-old supplied the knives and rs and drove the vehicle in the gang toured Belfast g for victims. During his Moore admitted his part in n murders prompting the to recommend that he d never be released from n.

an Kelly, presently serving ears for blowing up a fish hip shop in Belfast's Shan- Road in which nine Protes- died is another who may be freed. Kelly, now 23, not due to have his sentence wed until 2005. Another idate for release is Michael e who carried out a grenade gun attack at the 1988 fu- ls of the three IRA members dead by the SAS in Gibral- At this trial, it was recom- ded that Stone, now 42, e a minimum thirty-year

and inhumanity" and when he was sentenced it was recommended that he serve a minimum of thirty-five years. During his prison stay, the 47-year-old Magee, married the American novelist Barbara Byer.

Then there is Johnny "Mad Dog" Adair, the leader of the loyalist Ulster Defence Association in the Maze Prison who was imprisoned for 16 years in 1995 after being implicated in the deaths of at least 12 Catholics in attacks on their homes. Adair, now aged 33, was due for release in 2003 because under British law all prisoners who behave themselves while in detention have their sentences automatically halved.

The "Balcomber Street Gang" of Martin O'Connell, Eddie Butler, Harry Duggan and Hugh Doherty responsible for the Woolwich and Guildford bombings in which seven people died, for which they received life sentences, also enjoy the prospect of freedom. Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams once described the four as "our Nelson Mandelas."

The Democratic Unionist MP for Belfast East, Peter Robinson, has accused both the British and Irish governments of "indecent haste" in releasing Republican prisoners. He said: "It is simply a case of cleaning their jails of republican prisoners as quickly as they can. These are prisoners who have carried out the foulest deeds., this is nothing to do with justice, this is entirely a political decision."

However, another Belfast MP, Andrew Walsh said that Mo Mowlam, Britain's Northern Ireland Minister, may soon reach a decision to order the release of two British Army Scots Guardsmen,Jim Fisher, 29 from Ayr, and Mark Wright, 24 from Arbroath,for shooting and killing 18-year-old Peter mcBride

LETTERS

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Problems at Philippine school

Sir – As a concerned parent, I would to like to thank the DFA officials who came from Manila to resolve the crisis at the New International Philippine School in Jeddah (NIPSJ). However, their work did not come up to expectations. Promises that a seminar on the IAC manual would be held and that there would be an investigation into the validity of the July 3 school board election were not fulfilled.

Moreover, they allowed the holding of an election without the proper procedures being followed. Not enough parents were present at the meeting to constitute a simple majority as there were only a total of two hundred and forty-six people in attendance including spouses and outsiders. There was also a suppression of free speech as the consul general refused to entertain questions from parents. Parliamentary-type procedures were not observed properly. Finally, because of the mixed attendance, some non-parents were able to nominate a candidate and also to cast their votes. The problems, far from being solved, are now worse than ever.

Undersecretary Caday and Mr. Molano had a nice trip at the taxpayers' expense.

NIPSJ Parent
Jeddah

Big brother

Sir – Yes, we have got one superpower in this world, one which is very good at disciplining others but less good at helping them. The US is well able to hand out punishment, in the form of sanctions, to countries all over the world whether they are deserved or not. But we do not hear it of coming to the help of countries in great need. Some Asian countries are at present suffering terribly from the economic crisis. Why doesn't the US, as the world's only superpower, come forward to lend them a helping hand? If only it would do this, we would know that the US can use its great power, not just to punish countries, but also to help those in trouble.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Asian domino effect

Sir – The current economic jitters all over Asia have brought forth a domino effect in terms of survival during this time of severe crisis. All of these plunging currencies are, in one way or the other, affecting us all. Repercussions come in a number of ways. In addition, the climate has also been changing for the worse. Countries suffering with strange weather phenomena as a result of El Niño and El Niña are now striving hard to come to grips with what a nature has to offer. Everything is in a shambles due to wars and man-made disasters. When all of these are added together, they create a very bleak scenario. It seems that the world is going from bad to worse. But life must go on, rain or shine.

The spiraling of prices brought about by the peso devaluation is so alarming that every Filipino should prepare himself for when the going get rough. Back home, our countrymen are again suffering adverse effects. However, some of us are fortunate enough to work in Saudi Arabia. Making good money has ever been an OCW's obsession but not all are so lucky.

The way some companies are now laying off employees due to the oil-price reduction has, for

As an expatriate worker who hails from a poor country like the Philippines, working in Saudi Arabia has been very good for me. The purpose of this letter is just to remind my countrymen to work hard while they can and to save money while they have a little surplus. Nowadays getting good jobs is a luxury hard to come by. There are too many eager, would-be employees waiting in a very long queue of job seekers. In fact, some who left "finally" last year, are now seen working again in Saudi Arabia. This is a sign of the times!

Jessie L. Escosar
Al Khobar

Woes of air travel in India

Sir – I traveled to India on vacation in March on the sector Riyadh-Bombay-Coimbatore by Air India with confirmed reservations to Coimbatore by Indian Airlines. The ticket was issued by Air India. On reaching Bombay I contacted the Indian Airlines reservation counter at the International Terminal (adjacent to the Air India counter) to verify my reservation to Coimbatore on the following day. However, to my dismay and horror, I was informed by IA that I had no reservation at all for this route although I had my reservation reconfirmed in Riyadh. The computer printout was ample proof of this fact. I requested Air India's ground staff for assistance but was caught off guard by their vehement refusal to cooperate. They claimed that their responsibility ceased to exist as soon as they off-loaded me at Mumbai and I was directed to the reservation counter at IA's new domestic terminal at Santa Cruz. At IA Santa Cruz the reservation clerk made a fresh booking for me to Coimbatore but placed my name on a waiting list with no guarantee for a confirmed seat. As I had to reach Coimbatore the following day due to unavoidable reasons I also made a booking with Jet Airways at Santa Cruz who were kind enough to provide me with a seat to Coimbatore the next day bu asked for an endorsement by IA on my ticket However, IA flatly refused to give any endorsement stating that I was on their waiting list for th flight to Coimbatore. I had to shunt between th IA terminal and Jet terminal many times in th wee hours of the night in Mumbai with all m luggage and ultimately had to pay more for a sea I assume that this happens because of bog booking by some touts who book the ticke through the connivance of the airlines' staff.

Although Air India and Indian Airlines a government owned and claim that they have bilateral agreement for code sharing, hub a spoke services, when it comes to making rese vations through Air India's overseas offices domestic sector in India, they refuse to should any responsibility and their PNR do not accou for the domestic booking. While electronic co munications have progressed at a phenomen pace, the services provided by Air India and I dian Airlines have hit rock bottom when it com to their reservation system. Maybe their inte tions are noble but the execution is not. It is hi time that the Indian government opens this sec to competition to end these two airlines' mon oly.

V. Vijayaraghav
Riya

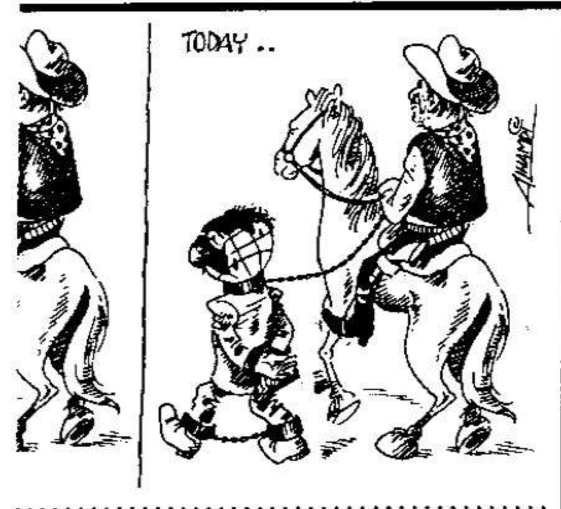
Jews, theft and compensation

Sir – BBC announced that the Swiss banks agre to pay so-called holocaust victims' famil

ingladeshi people, stricken the moment debating the immediate concern is sureed food, drinking water, ing and shelter. Once the

The immediate need is for food and medicine. Aid officials say that the country's need for food grain has doubled this year due to crop losses caused by the floods. They estimate that the total food shortfall is likely to reach four million tonnes this year. Floods have affected about 760,000 hectares of farmland and

The floods are not expected to recede for a fortnight. Further flood waters from the swollen of eastern India are now rushing down to Bang and will cause additional havoc. This is the time nations to rally round and help a people re desperate through no fault of its own.



ring Clinton clear the air



assistant, we went to work. Jones took leave from this private law practice in Oklahoma to help.

He discovered two examples of presidential censure in the previous century.

On March 28, 1834, the Senate voted 27 to 16 to censure President Andrew Jackson for assuming authority and power in "derogation" of "the Constitution and laws" in relation to the "public revenue." This censure was later rescinded.

The House of Representatives censured President James Buchanan on June 13, 1860, by a vote of 106 to 61, charging him and subordinants with corruption in connection with military supplies – specifically "receiving and considering the party relations of bidders for contracts."

By late July 1974, it was clear that the House would soon consider the bill of impeachment already fashioned by the House Judiciary Committee. The only hope for censure would be if my resolution could be offered as a substitute when the full House took up the impeachment question. If the House approved the procedural change that I recommended, members would vote first on my resolution to censure. If a majority rejected it, the next vote would be on impeachment, a measure that would require the Senate to try Nixon on specified charges.

My resolution noted Nixon's "great achievements in foreign policy which are highly beneficial to every citizen and indeed to all people in the world." But it cited his "insensitivity to the moral demands, lofty purpose and ideals of the high office he holds in trust," in addition to his failure to prevent close subordinates and agents from commit-

(R-Ch), a senior member of the committee and I began circulating petitions supporting censure.

In my files are copies showing that we secured in three days signatures of 60 members, mostly Republicans, supporting the censure choice. Among them were Trent Lott (R-Ms), now the Senate Majority Leader; Charles Wiggins (R-Ca) and Edward Hutchinson (R-Mi), senior members of the Judiciary Committee; and John J. Rhodes (R-Az), Bob Michel (R-Il) and Les Arends (R-Il), comprising House Republican leadership.

The Associated Press reported that Speaker Carl Albert (D-Ar), said he would leave the procedural question up to the Rules Committee but would not vote for censure. "I would either vote for or against the (impeachment) resolution." Majority Leader John McFall, although committee to impeachment, said he favored giving members the choice of censure or impeachment.

Rep. Edward Mezvinsky (D-Ia) called censure "a cop out," but Prof Charles Black of Yale, an eminent authority on impeachment supported my request to the Rules Committee.

A few days later, censure and impeachment became moot when "smoking gun" revelations of Nixon's flagrant proposals to block FBI investigation forced him to resign.

My 22 years as a member of Congress encompassed the entirety of the Watergate burglary and Senate hearings on it, as well as the House impeachment hearings. Accordingly, I have empathy for today's members of Congress, only a few of whom were in office during the Nixon ordeal and can be expected to comprehend fully the enormous national consequences that impeachment can entail.

Of the present members of the House Judiciary Committee, only John Congress (D-Mi), was in Congress at that time. Chairman Henry Hyde (R-Il), the man who will preside if impeachment hearings occur, was

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Shattered respect

Sir – The demolition of the Sudanese pharmaceutical factory and the repercussions of the Monica Lewinsky case have made me revise all that I respected in the Western world in general and in the United States in particular. I used to believe that the Americans were so influenced by their Constitution, which is regarded as a model all over the world, that they observed the dictates of the "self-evident truths" in war and in peace, and on the personal as well as on the governmental level. I used to believe that, in America, the major issues of the state were dealt with by the institutions instead of being left to the whims of an individual, even if he is president, whose only mandate might be the advice of a clique of advisors. Also I used to believe that though American society might be open, there were ethical limits beyond which people could not step on the pretext of personal freedom. But what personal freedom entitles a person to have an "inappropriate relationship" with an intern? And where was it conducted? In the next room to the highest office in the country! The rest of the world knows that for the Americans the Oval Office is more venerable than a church however profligate the occupant of the highest office might be.

Now that my convictions about the US and my idealized views have been shattered like the Sudanese factory, and the American image which I admired has been smeared like the dress of Monica Lewinsky, I feel extremely exhilarated rather than disgusted because I am now cleansed of the illusions I had harbored about the American system and its morality.

Abu Ammar Khan
Najran

Eradicate evil of terrorism

Sir – Where? When? Who? Why?

Terrorism affects all of us and makes the world we live in a dangerous place. We never know where it will strike next, or when this will be. We don't know who the culprits are or why they commit these atrocities. So we have no idea how terrorism can be combated or how we can protect ourselves from it.

But one thing is certain. This evil must be eradicated from the face of the earth for it obeys none of the rules which govern human society and cares not who or what it destroys.

Dr Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Sharif and Vajpayee must talk

Sir – Two gentlemen, the prime ministers of India and Pakistan, will unfortunately not meet in September on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement conference in Durban, South Africa as Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has indicated that he will not be attending. Definitely the cool evenings would have been warmed up with gossip and the finest Brazilian coffee. They could have talked by the ocean named after the great sub-continent they hail from.

Vajpayee and Sharif or their earlier counterparts have been talking for the last 51 years about regional cooperation, coexistence, stability, coherent peace and so on. They have been smart enough to fool their countrymen and the world at large about their true intentions: nearly three decades of atomic development was not exposed until recent times in the Pokhran sands and the Chagai rocks.

While the Indian rupee and Pakistani rupee are fighting for survival, hundreds of millions of people are struggling to earn a day's living, tens of millions of mothers go hungry in order to feed their children, fathers with no job hopelessly hang

Kashmiris living in Indian Kashmir? Bangladesh have to break away from and why was their experience with Pak a good one? What about the quarter of Pakistanis stranded in the so-called Gen in Bangladesh? There have been deaths for more than a quarter of a century an sheds tears for them even though man tional organizations have offered gene for their rehabilation in Pakistan.

Moreover, the brothers of these pe have been living in Pakistan for over h tury, devoted to that country, are still r as Mohajirs.

I am not trying to justify India's occu part of Kashmir or denying Kashmir's choose between living with Pakistan total independence. In the latter case, would have to recognize Kashmir as an dent country and the United Nations would have to change since it gave tw either joining Pakistan or India. Is Paki to hand over its part of Kashmir? Or is a its only solution? Before going into a f with India, Pakistan has to answer th tions and let the world know its inten may drum up support.

This issue should not be allowed to ow all initiatives to normalize the re between India and Pakistan.

Engin

IIST acquires license

Sir – With immense pleasure the Int Indian School in Taif (IIST) announce Ministry of Education has issued a lice the name of the Indian community repr Dr Syed Anwar Khursheed (preside Management Committee), Shakeelud (secretary) and Naim Ahmed (finance We owe a debt of gratitude to the con of India (CGI), the International Indi Jeddah (IISJ) and the local authorities

The Taif Coaching Center came into as a branch of the Indian Embassy Sc dah, in 1987 with just four classes and dents. The school was inaugurated b CGI, Talmiz Ahmad.

In the ten years since then the scho veloped in a big way. What had been infant school has blossomed into a ful school with ten classes and 200 student to the needs of the Indian expatriate c residing in the Taif area. With the gra cence, the school is now renamed th tional Indian School, Taif.

It is true that a great number of pe contributed to the making of the schoo essential that I mention that the presen ment Committee headed by Dr Khur been rendering the most valuable serv institution for more than a decade; its e bring academic and extra-curricular ex the school have been endless and tirele

The IIST aims to be a complete e institution in which children from all the community can receive quality edu ensures all-round development. It als serve the nation in its growth.

The IIST has a comprehensive spanning varied academic and extra activities. It plays a vital role in nur nourishing the young minds and seek about full physical, mental and mora ment in the child.

The school aims to develop the inna and talents of the child by providing a ment conducive for this. It conducts co in elocution, recitation, *Qiraat*, debat

COMMENT

...st opportunity for Cyprus

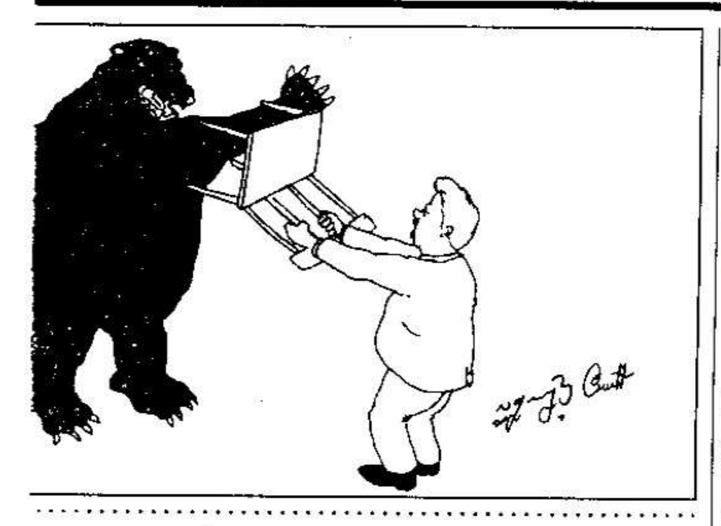
...osal put forward by Rauf Denktash, the ...riot leader, that the two parts of Cyprus ...ogether in a confederation has been ... rejected by the Greek-Cypriot ... This reaction was expected even ...emed to offer a basis on which to restart ... on how to end the partition of Cyprus ...ed the Turkish invasion of 1974. ...s accused of breaking off the ...d dialogue. This may be true, but now he ... a fresh start and this opportunity for a ...tlement of one of the world's most ...isputes should have been taken. After ...e reasons for the recent crisis was the ...ot government's decision to deploy ...de missiles targeted at Turkey. ...of a century is long enough for both the Greek- and Turkish-Cypriots to appreciate the futility of their mutual distrust. As all Cypriots share a common destiny it is obvious that communal animosity must be overcome.

In any move toward reunification, the causes of the partition have to be taken into account. In the past, the Turkish-Cypriots genuinely felt that they were discriminated against. They saw their houses, businesses and even mosques destroyed by extremist Greek-Cypriot elements. Such actions, compounded by a Greek plan to annex the island in 1974, antagonized the Turkish-Cypriots, resulting in the Turkish invasion.

Diplomatically, the position of the Greek-Cypriots is much stronger than that of Denktash's breakaway zone. Their government, led by President Glafcos Clerides, has international status, while the northern entity is only recognized by Turkey. Moreover, the Greek side is more developed ... major tourist destination. In cont... has a neglected look. No appre... activity has taken place since pa... border into that area is to step b...

Yet the Turkish zone is the ho... island's population. In a truly de... large section of society cannot b... the pre-1974 period, oppressed... suspicion increased recently wh... Union appeared to recognize th... the representatives of the whole... alienated Turkish community.

Clerides's rejection of the Den... the impression that he is not inte... negotiated settlement. This is ur... opportunity of escape from a da... should have been gratefully sei...



...nomic ills worsen ...is facing Jatoi



...ical crisis in ...hed a feverish ... a miracle can ...nment of Chief ...t Ali Jatoi. The ... own party, the ...m League has ...ir the house of ...e has ruled over ...th the support of ...ami Movement ...has 28 seats and ...roups.

...the saying goes, ...first to leave the ... so everyone ...left the chief ...ing the resigna... ...ministers. The ... in desperation, ...wind tour of in... ...hoping against ...dust will settle ...vincial capital.

...inister's trouble ...hry Nisar Ali ...to Karachi and ...the MQM peo... ...in vain. The ...have refused to ...

This further aggravates the situation as the MQM remains undecided whether or not to support the chief minister in the assembly when he will be required to seek a vote of confidence from the House when it meets on September 9.

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP), which has a strength of 35 seats in the House is sharpening its knives for a showdown. But the irony is that no one wants to lose his assembly seat as elections are very costly. On the other hand, the majority of the assembly members would like to see the chief minister leave.

Under these circumstances, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is left with only two options. The dissolution of the provincial assembly and holding of fresh elections within three months or the imposition of governor's rule for six months. All the political parties including the two ...rangement cannot last long.

The prime minister himself is already going through a crisis after introducing the 15th Amendment in the National Assembly for the enforcement of Islamic laws in the country. Ever since the inception of Pakistan, everyone has been paying lip service to Islam but when it comes to enforcing Islamic laws in practice, the political leaders become frightened for there is a world of difference between preaching and practice.

The leader of the opposition and former prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, has already announced that the PPP will launch a countrywide protest movement against the 15th Amendment.

In this politicial scenario, Sindh is lost in uncertainties. And it is not only the untenable political situation which has plagued Sindh. The economic situation is even worse. The Sindh government has hardly any money to pay its employees. Both the federal government and the State Bank of Pakistan have refused to ...

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Sole superpower

Sir – The world is having to get used to a new situation in which there is only one superpower. No doubt this will only be the case for a limited period of time because change is always occurring in the world and eventually there will be a different scenario. The challenge facing us is to adjust our way of life to the changes as they occur. Sometimes people resist change where this involves difficulties for them and so there will be problems at either the personal or national level. Conflicts can then occur and the problems will become more intractable.

Many of the countries that used to be in a position to help others have now faded from the scene, leaving just one hugely powerful state. The winner takes all and all others must bow to its will. Further changes lie ahead and there may be great dangers but no one can see the outcome. It is the nature of history: there is tragedy and drama, empires and cultures rise and fall. Each period has its own particular features and its own challenges to face.

In the present situation, we see military advances but we also see developments that can bring benefits to mankind. But there are also dangers from diseases and pollution. Radiation from nuclear power could get out of control. The more advances we make, the greater the threats seem to be. It is now time that we got to grips with all these problems and created a safer world as we approach the new millennium.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

A legend in her lifetime

Sir – Monica Lewinsky has now risen to be numbered among the legendary women, such as Cleopatra, who have changed or at least influenced the course of history. However, her rise may have involved the fall of the most powerful leader of the wealthiest nation of the world. She could indeed come to be recorded among those women who have engineered the fall of powerful empires.

As per the saying, "A woman can build, a woman can destroy", the Monica Lewinsky episode is set to destroy a leader's political career, a political party's period of power and a nation's direction. What will happen thereafter, how the course of world history may be changed, only time will tell.

Perhaps Monica is aiming at such a place in history! Otherwise, why is she not content with Clinton's admission of guilt – the inappropriate affair compounded with the crime of perjury – and is going ahead with more accusations against the President. Does she want to humble him further? Vindictive actions cannot be the outcome of true love. Lewinsky's love for Clinton is in ques...

China's security beha... Pakistan to the buildi... that are inimical to ... every reason for the t... to talk. It is not in the ... or other nations to ... China is a dangerous ...

Moreover, as China... era, there is ample evi... are playing a central r... will be pivotal to Ch... could be called on to ... and hold the country ... China is the looming ... gion; it is therefore vi... ity for constructive ... also be brought into ... Taiwan strait is again ... potential conflict. Th... have reached agreem... the medium-range mi... comed. But Beijing sh... ber of the Missile Te... American and Chine... verge on the Korean ... cooperation will be cr... to adhere to the agreem... China are too big and ... a relationship of susp... ception gap between ... President Bill Clinton ... portant step toward br...

D...

Beautiful Khobar

Sir – There is an old ad... eyes of the beholder bu... you move around in A... actually around us. Th... for the cleanness of t... everywhere is so plea... draught of cold water ... them to survive the m... heat when their hectic ... beats anywhere else i... this respect. My sincer... ing so much to enhance ... of this city, enabling ... during the stifling, ho...

Problems of exp...

Sir – It is an undeniabl... dians (NRIs) face a lo... discrimination when th... admitted for courses ... cially so in medical and...

Whilst the NRIs con... tribute immensely to th...

r, fell after Anwar's dismissal. The market
or indicates that Anwar cannot be dismissed
ent force.

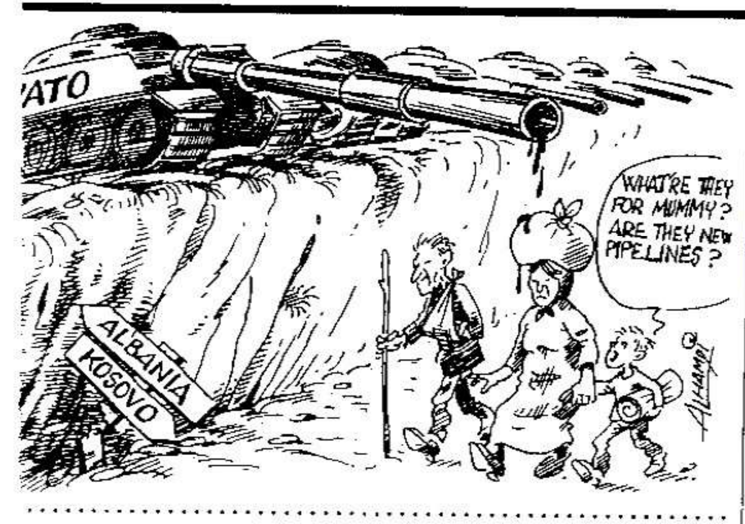
ences between Prime Minister Mahathir
ad and Anwar were simmering for sometime,
arly since the financial crisis hit Malaysia.
s an advocate of free market. The financial
ggravated by foreign currency speculators,
r, seemed to have forced the premier to look
r remedies.

a sharp difference of opinion. But the way it
en handled is not refined, to say the least.
was not an ordinary minister. An degenerated into a clash of titans. Anwar, 51, did not agree to septuagenarian Mahathir's advice to resign.

The difference of opinion has not been resolved with Anwar shown the door. Now he is being hounded out. Coinciding with his ouster, the police said Wednesday that he was being investigated as part of claims made in a disparaging book, against which Anwar has sought a court injunction. Furthermore, sources at the ruling United Malays National Organization (UMNO) said Anwar was expected to lose his position as deputy president of the UMNO. There are fears that he may be arrested under the country's harsh Internal Security Act.

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etting the Asian iracle back on track

id Astbury

Hong Kong, now he failure of conven-ns to put out the re-ncial firestorm has governments to re-rocess of market lib-and take fiercely in-st measures to get the nomic miracle" back

ong's belief in non-and the sanctity of ets crumbled last en the Hong Kong authority embarked llion dollars buying p up the local stock-

's commitment to n ended abruptly with the pegging of to the US dollar, the of exchange controls king of Anwar Ibra-as finance minister to Prime Minister Mohamad had wowed national investment with his market

what their proponents stark deviations from onomic wisdom are mporary expedients ave implications for Western world inter-Asia

g to free-trade and Australian Na-ersity academic Ross The most important es of the East Asia derive from the ideas from it, just as the ession in the West ceptions of economic enerations."

ways of dealing economic meltdown return for billion-dollar bailout packages, and those who have not.

However reluctantly, Thailand, South Korea and Indonesia have all danced to the IMF tune: slashing government spending, hiking up interest rates, attempting to clean out the banking sector and doing what they can to curb crony capitalism.

They have won praise for keeping faith with the free-market creed and for being willing to bear the pain of ongoing reform. Above all, they have won respect for accepting that most of the blame for the mess resides with the region's governments and not with a bunch of foreign conspirators.

Most experts agree that hot money from abroad puffed up property values and stock markets. David Clark, of the University of New South Wales, has compiled figures showing that in 1996 five Asian economies – Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines – received net private capital inflows of 62 billion dollars.

The following year they experienced an outflow of 12 billion dollars. That's a turnaround in a single year of 105 billion dollars – 10 percent of the combined gross domestic product of those five economies.

It was the bursting of the bubble, and the inability of banking systems across the region to cope against it, that set off the financial firestorm.

Says Rajiv Lal, executive director of US-based investment bank Warburg Pincus: "The single most important thread is the fragility of the financial systems, and that goes to the sustainability of growth.

"This is the most important cause and lesson of the South-

need for radical reform of the financial system. Mahathir talks of reflation, of government spending to pump prime the economy, of local banks lending again despite bad debt levels across the system that are predicted to reach 25 percent by next year.

"Not that Mahathir is without international support for his unorthodox remedies. In an amazing turnaround, Massachusetts Institute of Technology economist Paul Krugman, the very man who denied the existence of the "Asian economic miracle," says unorthodox remedies are now in order to recapture growth.

Speaking in Australia last week on the eve of a lecture tour round the region, Krugman endorsed the imposition of exchange controls as a way of breaking the link between domestic interest rates and currency exchange rates.

He also echoed a view heard around the region that the bitter IMF medicine has not engendered the recovery that was expected.

"Desperate times call for desperate measures," Krugman said. "A debt moratorium is not sufficient. As long as there are concerns about exchange rates that apply not just to existing debt but to any money that wants to move out, you need controls." Krugman, who was pilloried around the region three years ago when he said astronomic Southeast Asian growth rates reflected perspiration rather than inspiration, also placed himself among those warning that the West's response to the Asian crisis would have implications far beyond mere economics.

"Anti-Anglo-Saxon feeling

LETTERS

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Culture should bind; not divide

Sir – Many nations, with different cultures shaping their specific characteristics, often go to war with each other because of their differences. This is very wrong. We should sit down together to sort out any disagreements. We should also try to make our particular culture acceptable to others instead of presenting it as a challenge to them. After all, cultures are widespread phenomena, each contributing something to mankind. At present, as in the past, clashes of cultures abound in the world; the UK against France, the US against Russia, Israel against Arab countries and so on.

Of course, there are many international organizations established to solve the problems that arise between countries and to apply the rules of justice. This is not an easy task because of the many complications and difficulties involved in these matters. Moreover, decisions given against one party may not be accepted by it.

It is the nature of human beings to fight, but, at the same time, they are creative and have the talents to do many excellent things. They are able to produce many wonderful things to benefit future generations. It would be in our self-interest to secure benefits for other people as well as for ourselves, getting the right balance between the two. We should make it our duty to do the best we can for everyone we come into contact with. We should try to look at all sides of a problem. These are important matters that should be discussed by the international media.

The wasting of many of our natural resources should be avoided so that human beings can benefit from them in a better way. Modern life must be made better for everyone. The first step will be to escape from the endless cycle of crises.

Dr Hashim Ibrahim Hashim
Jeddah

Gazette face-to-face discussion

Sir – I would like to add my congratulations to the many you must be receiving on the face-to-face, panel discussion on Pakistan organized by *Okaz* and the *Saudi Gazette* on August 28.

It was the first of its kind that I have come across in which people with different viewpoints from a particular nation had free, frank and open discussions under the auspices of the *Saudi Gazette* – with a minister of the said country, in this case Mushahid Hussain Syed, Pakistan's minister of information.

I am very positive in saying that it also provided a chance for a certain community to appreciate how prestigious your newspapers is! This kind of panel discussion, under the banner of a newspaper, establishes a close relationship between the reader and the newspaper.

I must compliment Mazhar Hasan Siddiqi who compiled the newspaper report (*Saudi Gazette*, August 29) of the discussions successfully in such a short time.

Thanking you again for providing us with this opportunity for meaningful discussions.

Shahbaz Hussain Choudhry
Jeddah

Clinton's private affair

Sir – As we all know that Bill Clinton gave his

Are Americans t... democracy is su... the president? I w... way to seek po... life is his own p... public will only ... cans. If anyone i... tions it should b... endure great hu... human too. Are a... want their presid... lying under oath, ... – but it all boils ... which are private ... has been done bu... try to keep their ... and not make a m... disgrace their ow...

Obnoxious d...

Sir – This refers t... in the Muslim co... we reacted agains... a very bad effect ... from it. If anybod... wedding then he ... addition on his d... plight of those p... class who have ... obtain the require... all their daughters ... has to be returned ... have to sell their ... accommodation f... cases women ne... parents cannot a... blessing of Allah ... behaved, culture... many other quali... qualities but are ... amount we will g...

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’s haunting ıks into India



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LDIP NAYAR

In contrast, ver and fewer ople in India attacking the ıngh Parivar for nmunalizing atmosphere. eems that the ear, which aunts most iberals in akistan, is eeping into dia. This is, indeed, a tragedy.

He canceled his visit to because he could not af- eturn empty handed af- ng Prime Minister Atal ajpayee.

Nawaz Sharif has to mself for most troubles. pporting and sustaining ban, who represent the nce of intransigence, not have escaped the lames of religious fer- bound to reach Paki- re bush fires of reac- people have been since the assassination Minister Liaquat Ali 952.

gument that the back- hat the Taleban, sup- Inter Service Intelli- I), did in Afghanistan id to affect Pakistan. it could happen. Naw- wanted to prove his credentials. Hence the olier than thou. Yet his given legitimacy to people. They may not what they have got. harif seems to have ated their strength. can bring roughnecks eets but they cannot ough support in elec- religious parties put ve never polled more percent of votes in the

action of Pakistan's ber, the armed forces, own. The top brass is worried over the con- of middling ranks. there was an attempt ls and brigadiers to the government be- was not Islamic

Karamat does not want to step in. However, his predicament like many in and outside Pakistan must be why Nawaz Sharif with a two-third majority in the National Assembly had to resort first to the emergency and then play the Islamic card to buttress his rule. And still the unanswered question is why democracy has not taken roots in Pakistan even after 50 years of independence.

For New Delhi, the situation is of some concern because the anti-India bias strings together people from the different parts of Pakistan.

With Afghanistan under the Taleban and Pakistan without constitutional tug, it is a long, fanatic and combustible stretch. It can be a shelter as well as a breeding ground for extremism, who may be tempted to meddle in the affairs of Central Asia on the one side and India on the other.

The proxy war in Kashmir may get intensified. Vajpayee's concern over too much religion in a neighboring country is legitimate. But it does not behove a BJP leader of his status to say that "when the world is getting into the 21st century no step should be taken that is retrogressive."

The *raison d'etre* of the BJP is pure Hinduism of olden days. The party cherishes the Hindu Rashtriya, which will negate the centuries' old composite culture of India.

Left to the RSS, the BJP's mentor, Hindu fundamentalists will rule the country. To placate them, the BJP is revising history to lessen the contribution of Muslims. The recent example is that of change of books in the BJP-ruled Gujarat. Human Resources Development Minister Murli Manohar Joshi has nominated such members to the Indian Historical Research Council as have pronounced Hindu leanings. Information Minister Sushma Swaraj puts persons with RSS background in positions, which occur under her charge.

Mixing religion with politics or the state is regressive. Pakistan is a casualty of such thinking. India has to guard against it because that can be the end of democratic polity. The Sangh Parivar is determined to take the country to the fundamentalistic path. But it should be fought tooth and nail. No wonder, even the Puri priest has attacked Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani for "deliberate misuse of religion in the interest of politics."

One heartening development in Pakistan is that more and more people are shedding fear of the *maulvi* and lashing out at extremism.

The press too has lent its voice. In contrast, fewer and fewer people in India are attacking the Sangh Parivar for communalizing the atmosphere. It seems that the fear, which

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present Pakistan government, it has left a government on three occasions since 1988. This is crystal clear proof of its incompetence, inefficiency in government, lack of political wisdom, mediocre leadership and failure to serve those who voted for it. It has also proved itself to be the most unreliable political group, incompatible with its former partners. It has failed again and again. It cannot keep on running away; it must be accountable to its voters. The MQM leadership cannot disown responsibility for the losses, misery, grievances and destruction it has inflicted on the Mohajir community in particular and the entire Karachi population in general.

It was a coalition partner of the last three governments, sharing power both at the Center and in Sindh province, but it has proved to be highly ineffective in assemblies, administration and ministerial matters. It exerts constant pressure and blackmails each government to meet its long list of demands similar to the conditions of 'Samri jadoogar', and thus resembles a college union group. Mohajirs must think seriously and consider the last 12 years in the history of Karachi. From this, they will conclude that their gains under the MQM flag are zero. Are we going to give another chance to this group of selfish people in future? The answer should certainly be 'No'.

S.N.H.Naqvi
Dammam

Knock-on effect

Sir – The current economic crisis started in the Far East and spread to the rest of the world. This shows how the whole world has become closely interconnected through technological developments. The controlling of businesses, the processing of data and the taking of decisions all take place on a global basis. Technology, especially automation, has created a global village in which all things seem possible.

But the problem with this development is that if mistakes are committed in one place these can quickly affect all other places and the situation can get out of control. A nation may find it very difficult to protect itself from these sudden effects and the basic needs of the country may not be provided for. In former days, there would have been time to take precautionary measures but this is no longer possible. There are many examples of countries suffering from the current economic crisis, Indonesia, Japan, and now Russia among them. Problems have been compounded by the unstable political situations in the various countries.

The key is really with the US which has been trying to impose the Western financial system on countries regardless of individual circumstances. But the West does not worry about such things and is concerned only about its own interests. The illeffects of the the new world economic order are therefore becoming apparent but no country should suffer badly if it has governed its affairs in a proper manner.

However, the countries which have mismanaged their affairs will need miracles to save them from disasters arising from a multitude of interrelated factors. The case of Russia is a special one. When the communist system broke down in the USSR, the people were dreaming of finding a haven in the capitalist system. However, it was not easy to bring about the required changes quickly. It was extremely difficult to get people who had been brought up in the old system to adopt new ways of thinking and behaving. This may only be possible in the next generation. All that can be done in the present society is to prepare the path for the future. The way forward will be hard but eventually Russia will be able to stand side by side with the West or, rather, to follow the Western path into the new millennium.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

The real value of NAM

Sir – The value of the valuable is not diminished by ridicule. Following the end of the Cold War between the USSR and the West, and the disintegration of Soviet empire it was being said that the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) had lost the reason for its existence as there was no more need for alignment with either Russia or America. NAM survived this view and continued to be a forum of importance for its members.

The recent Durban summit of NAM saw huge participation. Why was this? Why would so many heads of state and foreign ministers waste their time if NAM was of no value? In fact, NAM is

countries which believe in mutual respect. O member does not bulldoze any other and, in fa members try to help each other in any way th can. It is goodwill toward each other that is t hallmark of NAM.

At every available opportunity, the topic feuding members is brought up by the detracto of NAM. It is mentioned that a soft approach adopted by NAM toward disputes. This is nat ral. Detractors should appreciate that a mo sensible approach in such situations is to advis rather than squeeze through, for example, tl imposition of sanctions.

Criticism cannot be adopted as a means f bringing peace among particular members, f this approach is not a virtue of the wise. NAM a movement for identifying areas of cooperatio for mutual benefit. It is not an organization f undertaking corrective measures against its ow members. Hence, it cannot adopt an aggressiv approach.

NAM is a court for its members, and a counc of countries where conciliation is preached an practiced within the norms of universally accep able ideals. This is the most valuable aspect o NAM that all its members respect.

Ideals are the foundation of every worthwhil edifice. NAM is fortunate to function on ideal and not on the inherent desires of materialism o through subjugation. That is the reason wh NAM has never gone astray.

Mohammed Abdul Aleem
Yanbu

Missing diplomats the issue

Sir – Ayoob Ali Khan is going too far in his speculation about Iran waging war on the Taleban, as if Iran is the aggressor in the region. Ali Khamenei has stated clearly that Iran will not enter into a war with Afghanistan. Khan seeks all sorts of feeble excuses why Pakistan and Iran will get involved in a regional war, and then he talks about using or not using nuclear weapons. What he forgets is that Pakistan has excellent relations with Iran and there exists absolutely no reason for them getting involved in a conflict. Or is it perhaps wishful thinking?

The real and only issue is that the Taleban, by their own admission, conceded that the Iranian diplomats have in all probability been killed. This, and nothing else, is the issue. It is a totally un-Islamic act to kill diplomats. The Prophet (pbuh) received the ambassador of Musaillama Al-Kathab, who became an apostate. After reading the message, the Prophet (pbuh) said to the ambassador, "Had you not been an emissary I would have killed you (for apostacy)." The Prophet (pbuh) protected the ambassador and sent him back with a message that there can be no cooperation with Musaillama. This sets the Islamic precedent that a diplomat must be accorded protection, however much his government is despised.

Khan seems as if he has potential to understand the issues but fails to intellectualize or argue the case properly.

Ali Mohsen
Jeddah

Acknowledging another writer

Sir – This refers to the letter titled "Tamils not oppressed in Sri Lanka," (*Saudi Gazette*, September 7). I am a Pakistani national and I have read several of Mr K. Kamalakaran's letters. I am amused at the way he is able to apply variation from letter to letter and hardly I have ever found duplication in any of those letters as Mr Zulfi claims. No doubt people like Zulfi find in hard to acknowledge the talent of another writer. After reading Zulfi's letter my wife and I could infer Zulfi's unbearable jealousy over Kamalakaran.

While I do not intend to interfere in the subject of controversy (Sri Lankan ethnic crisis) between Zulfi and Kamalakaran, my conscience does not let me avoid admonishing Zulfi over his personal attacks on another upcoming writer.

Mr Zulfi, Almighty Allah, in accordance with His great mercy and will, blesses some people with wisdom and understanding. The act of not acknowledging such people's talent is tantamount to despising Allah's creation itself. No one can escape the consequences of committing such a grave sin.

We understand that Zulfi is a Tamil hater and so he can't bear a Tamil excelling in his writing that he frames unfounded charges against him in public. It is called wickedness. We pray that Zulfi might resist harboring ...

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also be an occasion to coordinate positions on issues of mutual interests.

The international tour will start with a widely welcomed three-day visit to Britain. Saudi Arabia's Ambassador in London, Dr Ghazi Al-Gosaibi, said the Crown Prince's talks with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and other leaders would encompass and boost all aspects of bilateral relations. The British

political and economic ties, including joint investment and development.

The stalled Mid-east peace process and the resultant threats to peace and security are also expected to figure prominently in the Crown Prince's talks in different world capitals. The tour will bear fruits for all the countries concerned while advancing the cause of world peace and regional security.



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ment of flood forecasting and flood warning system, dredging of three main rivers at selected reaches, installation of water retention structures, implementation of special flood protection and drainage scheme for Dhaka, diversion of flood flow through the major distributaries, resumption of morphological studies and re-opening of Hydrological Training Institute (President Zia closed it), afforestation along dykes, rehabilitation of habitation within embanked area, polder construction for controlled flooding etc. It estimates a total cost of $6.68 billion plus 458,110 metric tons of wheat. This estimate, however, does not include the cost of planned barrages across Rivers Ganges and Brahmaputra of $20 to $22 billion.

The UNDP flood protection proposal envisaged reconstruction and strengthening of existing embankments, construction of new embankments, closure of distributaries as offtakes of major distributaries, incorporation of flushing sluices and drainage structures, stabilization of channels and river training, development of a Master Plan which will include upstream flood control, river bed management and parallel levis, a series of hydraulic, morphological, environmental, sociological, and economic studies to correctly formulate the Master Plan, and active floodplain management. Their plan would take 20 years to implement and will cost $3.5 billion.

We analyzed twenty major flood protection proposals and found no disagreement as regards improvement of flood forecasting and flood warning system both nationally and regionally. However, there is evidence that leading engineers generally favor structural or curative solutions involving huge foreign financing while the social scientists favor non-

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Kashmir powder keg

Sir – Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai, executive director of the Washington-based Kashmiri American Council (KAC) today applauded United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan for spotlighting Kashmir in his annual report to the 53rd session of the United Nations General Assembly scheduled to begin on September 21.

The secretary general correctly characterized the unflagging freedom struggle against foreign occupying powers in Kashmir as harrowing because of the nuclear capabilities of India and Pakistan. Dr Fai declared that, "since its nationhood, secured on August 15, 1947, Kashmir has been despoiled, defiled, and devastated by foreign military troops and denied its fundamental right of self-determination. The nuclear danger in South Asia will never recede until Kashmiris receive the justice and political liberty promised by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Charter and a series of United Nations Security Council resolutions providing for a free and fair self-determination vote."

Dr Fai further stressed that the Kashmir powder keg cannot be left to bilateral negotiations between India and Pakistan, a formula that has proven sterile for over 51 years. He added: "What is needed is outside mediation and an equal-partnership negotiating role for the people of Kashmir represented by the All-Party Hurriyet Conference. That approach cut the Gordian knot in Northern Ireland, and it would seem equally promising if applied in Kashmir."

Kahmiri American Council
Washington, DC

Need for a better future

Sir – There are many difficulties to be overcome before a comprehensive settlement can be reached in the Mid-east. Of course, the main stumbling block is still Israel. However, we are getting near the point where Israel may agree to withdraw from 13 percent of the West Bank, leaving that area entirely to the Palestinians. Israel knows what it is doing and has a well-thoughtout strategy with regard to the Arabs. This not only applies to the Palestinians but also to other Arab countries, especially Syria and Lebanon where there is the question of returning occupied land. Israel still holds the Golan Heights it grabbed from Syria in the 1967 war and also the southern strip of Lebanon it occupies for "security" reasons. Israel must enter into serious negotiations about these territories on the basis of legal rights and natural justice. It has already made its peace with Egypt and Jordan, as well as starting the process with the Palestinians, but it must now show serious intentions towards its other neighbors.

Other Arab countries also have major problems. Algeria has terrible security problems and Sudan has desperate economic troubles as well as a devastating war in the south of the country. These countries have the resources to become rich and successful but they are not being properly exploited. Then there are the well-known problems of Iraq, Libya and Somalia.

So what does the future hold for the Arab world? Will the next generation of Arabs live a better life with a higher standard of living, peace and security, and the opportunity to live more productive and more creative lives? Will they be able to make better use of the rich resources of their countries?

A comprehensive peace settlement must be worked out with Israel as an essential precondition for a better way of life for all Arab people, and for Israelis too. Trade would be able to develop. Culture would also get a chance to flourish. History gives us an example of a time when Arabs and Jews lived together happily in Andalusia, part of the present-day Spain, where trade and culture flourished within the empire of that time. That is a model that could be followed in the Mid-east to benefit future generations if a just peace settlement could be arranged.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

America's darkest hour?

Sir – The American way is shocking! To think that the US House of Representatives actually voted overwhelmingly to demolish a human spirit by washing the dirty linen of the country's highest office in public and flooding the world with smut.

Clinton has definitely sinned – he has admitted it – he has lost the moral authority to remain in office, he has apparently lied and obstructed justice, but does he, or any individual for that matter, deserve to be sacrificed on the altar of international public opinion in such a cruel and demeaning fashion?

September 11, 1998 must surely go down in history as the day the US House of Representatives stooped lowest and gave the world the worst sampling yet of American culture.

Joyce Ogee
Jeddah

Moscow's red dawn still only a glimmer

By Alastair Macdonald

'REDS in the White House?" asked Moscow's liberal daily *Sevodnya* on Friday as at least one communist prepared to take a senior job at Russia's government headquarters under new Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov.

But as Primakov was installed as a compromise choice between the path Primakov will choose to haul Russia out of its deepest economic crisis since Yeltsin led it away from communism in 1991.

Some analysts doubted the communists would even try to impose the sort of command economy the party outlined in a policy document this week. "We need to go on with reforms. Without them, there is no way out of the present situation," Primakov said.

Another balancing element in the government could come from the communists themselves.

Alexei Kara-Murza, a researcher at the Russian Academy of Sciences who follows the movement closely, said the communist strategy was still to maintain their distance from government in order to benefit from public dissatisfaction at parliamentary and presidential elections over the next 20

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Over twenty nations, most of them European, have announced assistance. The US has sent urgent supplies including a plane-load of water-purification tablets, while USAID has offered $1.7 million in addition to the $1.57 million it has provided for emergency food supplies. The United Nations World Food Program has announced a huge aid operation. Much help has been given or pledged but very much more is still required.

In addition to emergency aid, the country also needs enough cash to be able to survive when the floods have receded. Bangladeshi economists say that, as a result of the floods, economic growth will be stunted for two to three years.

The floods have swamped 55 of the country's
districts since July, and 120 million people in a
country of 130 million are closely affected. Eve
residential areas of Dhaka are knee-deep in w.
The city is fearing the collapse of the 32-km dyl
which provides Dhaka's last defense against th
main floods. The army and thousands of civilia
volunteers, going days without sleep, are stan
watch at the embankment.

One hundred and thirty million people are
struggling to survive. It is said that 20 million fa
death if the floods do not subside within the ne
three weeks.

The entire world community must – as a matt
the utmost urgency – rally to their aid.



c focus
ıton



Another observer doubts that ne American public is as interested as the media bosses seems o believe. He blames the obsession partly on the growing number of cable television stations hat compete feverishly, each rying to outdo the other in snaring viewers with sensationalism.

Network news segments rarely deal with more than six major ews events and these days three r four focus on Clinton's priate life.

In my view, TV is only part of he reason. Even with its capacity to cover scores of major news vents in one issue, the print nedia is nearly as bad as the lectronic in one especially regrettable respect.

Driven partly by the constant ressure of trying to compete ith broadcasting's ability to rovide instant coverage of reaking stories, newspapers nd magazines have lowered alost to ground level the bars on hat is decent and acceptable.

A noteworthy – and, in my iew, distressing – aspect of the iedia's obsession with presiential sex is the eagerness with hich newspapers and other rint media report allegations d gossip in excruciating detail. he *Christian Science Monitor*, small but prestigious daily, is lonely exception.

Bob Woodward, assistant ed-

During those earlier times I edited a weekly newspaper in a rural Illinois county. At that time gambling was officially considered a bad habit that should be discouraged by public policy, including postal regulation. Most of our readers received their newspapers through discounted rates.

Postal regulations prohibited periodicals from mentioning lotteries, drawings, or bingo games. All were considered forms of gambling, and if a newspaper broke the postal prohibition, it would risk losing rate discounts.

In another expression of governmental guidance, slot and pinball machines were outlawed.

Despite the prohibition, such gambling devices were prevalent in our home country and nearby.

The man who owned the gambling machines had an arrangement under which he made regular contributions to grateful local units of government.

It did not last. One evening, state police gathered up the gambling machines from various business establishments throughout the country, piled them up at a highway intersection near the country seat and the next morning destroyed them with axes.

The police had acted on the order of Illinois Governor Adlai Stevenson II, who later unsuccessfully opposed Dwight D. Eisenhower for the presidency. Still later he served President Kennedy as ambassador to the United Nations.

The newspaper I edited, and most of the others in the region,

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Turkey in search of a role

Sir – Turkey is trying to find a place for itself in the world. It forms a bridge between West and East but is not really a true part of either. It has not been accepted for membership of the European Union (EU) and so has turned East to find a role there. But it has to find the right balance between Israel and the Arabs which are in dispute, particularly over the Israeli occupation of Arab lands. Turkey is very concerned about trading prospects and especially good outlets for its exports. It needs good alternatives to the EU.

Turkey has decided to have close ties with Israel because of Jewish influence in Turkish business and also because of worldwide Jewish clout. Companies with Jewish connections such as Ford and Coca-Cola used to be on the Arabs' blacklist but this is no longer the case. Turkey has many important natural resources and is trying hard to industrialize, so commercial ties are of the utmost importance to it.

However, Turkey has severe internal problems which affect its position in the Mid-east. It is suppressing the Islamic party though the vast majority of the people in the country are Muslims. Moreover, the influence of the army, behind the scenes, is very strong.

Turkey just does not know where it is going. It has inherited many problems from the old Ottoman Empire. It is not trusted by the West and now, because of its close relations with Israel, it is forfeiting Arab goodwill. It is having to fight the Kurds and has serious differences with its neighbors Syria, Iraq and Iran. What can be the way ahead for it in such problematic circumstances?

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Kashmiris thank Mandela

Sir – Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai, executive director of the Washington-based Kashmiri American Council has expressed his gratitude to President Nelson Mandela of South Africa for urging third-party assistance to achieve a peaceful resolution of the 51-year-old conflict over Kashmir.

During the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in Durban, South Africa, President Mandela declared: "All of us remain concerned that the issue of Jammu and Kashmir should be solved through peaceful negotiation, and should be willing to lend all the strength we have to the resolution of this matter."

Dr Fai applauded President Mandela's boldness and inspiration and elaborated: "I wish to express incalculable gratitude for your brave defense of the right to self-determination of the people of Kashmir achieved through peaceful negotiations facilitated by neutral and impartial third-party involvement. Your voice rings with exceptional persuasiveness because of your heroic triumph over similar injustice in South Africa after the long and painful years of apartheid. You have taught Kashmiris that no quest is hopeless that is fueled by fundamental principles of morality and international law."

The executive director said that, "Although India's initial reaction was belligerent, you undoubtedly remember that your initial overtures to

homeless.

I would also like to suggest that the high-level coverage of this Clinton-Moni opera" for so many months is really disg They could have devoted more time and to important issues like the flooding in I desh, the sufferings in the Sudan, the ki Kosovo and Palestine, the problem of K and the many grievous problems of so look forward to the day when the media tinual Clinton-bashing and, indeed, the Clinton saga will come to an end.

Dr Abdul M

Are Sri Lankan Tamils oppres

Sir – I refer to the letter "Tamils in Sri (*Saudi Gazette*, September 12) by K. Kan ran. I have also read the earlier letter by Mr the response it generated. As a Sri Lan would like to tackle the core issue here: A Tamils oppressed in Sri Lanka?

Mr K has said that he would welcon possibility of touring the Tamil-dominated of Sri Lanka in order to see for himself th ferings of the Tamil people. For his inform there is currently a ruthless campaign of being waged in these areas by the LTTE a in order to protect all concerned, the area been declared closed by the government Lanka.

Many accusations and counter-accu have been flung about, but the facts of the are clear. True, there is an ethnic problem Lanka, but the present government ack edged it at the time of the presidential elc and vowed to solve it by negotiations if the voted into power. Such was the desire for that the people of Sri Lanka voted for Ku tunga as president with over 62 percent votes cast.

Despite the genuine efforts made by the dent of Sri Lanka to secure peace, the LTTE back on its word and recommenced its cam of terror, killing many innocent people in blasts in Colombo. This has been so widely demned that the USA has described the LT a terror outfit.

As for Tamils being denied responsible ernment positions, please consider these fac the recent past, the inspector general of p was a Tamil, and so too was the chief justic holder of the highest judicial office in Sri L.

Key ministerial posts have been held by its in all previous governments and, at pr the justice, home affairs and foreign affairs isters are all Tamils, as is the external a spokesman. Therefore, to claim that Tami not given their due place in society is far fro truth.

As for Mr K's comment that schoolgirls in for questioning at checkpoints are killed, was just one such case in the recent past an culprits have been taken to court, found and sentenced to death. This shows that ju prevails whatever the race of the victim.

...lflation, and so Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov
immediately denied that there was any such plan.
Even President Boris Yeltsin stepped in, saying that he would "react very strongly" to any measures that would have a negative impact on the Russian people. This seems to mean that the president is opposed to a ban on the sale of foreign currency.

...Russian government is willing to play by global rules." In effect, this means that Russia is being pressured to resume the very economic reforms that have caused many of the problems from which it is now suffering.

Albright is clearly unimpressed by the way the

...comply with this.

When its indecisive ... formulate an econom... country's particular ne... foreign help. There is ... economic turmoil.



Respect for Blair, not love, binds Labor

By John Morrison

'HE'S a phenomenon, this man. He has us applauding all sorts of things to which we're totally opposed.'

The comment from a bemused delegate to the annual conference of Britain's ruling Labor Party sums up the paradox of Tony Blair's leadership.

Almost a year and a half after his landslide victory in a general election, Blair seems to connect better with the mass of voters than with the grumbling grass-roots members of his own party, gathered by the seaside for their annual bonding session.

The conference gave Blair a standing ovation. But many delegates were doubtful, even mistrustful, of where their leader wanted to take them. The party is ambivalent about Blair's centrist "New Labor" vision, though he himself denies it.

"The conference has shown the whole of the party is New Labor, really," Blair told Sky News.

His deputy John Prescott and most of Blair's other ministers won easy applause by pressing traditional buttons and attacking traditional targets – greedy bosses of privatized industries, or the Conservative opposition.

But Blair won his standing ovation by challenging Labor orthodoxy, telling his troops to accept the logic of free markets and a competitive global economy.

Labor activists found their cherished assumptions and holy cows blasted in every line of their leader's speech, which attacked mediocre teachers and poor state schools, inefficient state hospitals and Britain's ramshackle welfare state.

Blair dismissed calls for a change of economic policy and urged delegates to go out and defend the government rather...



writers were quick to evoke the specter of Margaret Thatcher, another leader who swung her party to the right and forced it to adopt a radically new agenda.

The fate of Thatcher, who was dumped by a revolt in her own party in 1990 after a decade and a half as its leader, remains a long-term warning to Blair, but he is confident he has remade the party in his own image.

"There will never be any going back to the old days of the Labor Party," he told ITN television. "What you saw this week was a mature party, a party of government, a party very united, very disciplined.

"You compare that with the Labor Party of 20 years ago. It has been a miraculous change and that miraculous change is rooted, and it is never ever going to be changed again."

Blair dismissed the idea that the reshaped conference had been stage-managed to avoid argument, using a phrase which showed his contempt for the party's old habits.

"We have done conference in an entirely new way, which is not the old way with a whole lot of people shouting and bawling at each other," he said.

Blair dismissed the idea that the party was becoming restless...

Executive ended with four of the places being won by a slate largely made up of left-wing dissidents.

"You can exaggerate this, you know. The NEC is probably more firmly pro-leadership with a whole new generation of people on it than it has ever been," he told ITN. "Contrary to popular belief I don't mind at all people making criticisms."

Left-winger Ken Livingstone, however, hailed the result as a slap in the face for Blair's "New Labor" party managers – the young men and women known as the "Millbank tendency" after the Westminster road where the party has its headquarters.

Mark Seddon, editor of the left-wing *Weekly Tribune* and one of the successful candidates for the National Executive, said Blair's constant need for control was counterproductive.

"We are a representative party, not just agents of management," complained veteran left-winger Tony Benn, who contrasted the "glitz and glamour" on the platform with the unchanging values of the delegates in the hall.

But Labor's old Left is a spent force, according to insiders. "There is no real left wing in the organizational sense but there is a resurgence of grass-roots debate," says Michael Joseph of the Fabian Society think-tank.

Dissenters complain they are being marginalized; left-wing MPs fear that sooner or later the party rules will be changed to block their candidatures at the next election, due by 2002.

But there are signs that Blair is paying more attention to the mood of the broad rank and file. One message the conference gave him was to steer clear of any deals with Britain's third party, the Liberal Democrats, over electoral reform.

Blair cautiously played for time on the subject, declining to say in advance whether he would back a change to a more proportional voting system, the...

LETTERS

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Need for Arab action

Sir – There are so many problems that await solution and nothing is being done about them. But what is the way forward for the Arab world? Libya, unfairly subjected to United Nations sanctions at the behest of the United States and Britain, is a case in point. That country is being victimized because of unsubstantiated accusations that two Libyan nationals were in some way involved in the blowing up of an American passenger aircraft over Lockerbie in Scotland in 1988. Some moves are now being made to settle the matter but, in the meantime, sanctions remain in force. Iraq and Sudan are also suffering from Western hostility. It seems as though Western countries have no sort of respect for Third World nations and especially those in the Arab world.

Arab states have expressed their sympathy for their brothers in Libya but more active help is needed. Arabs and Africans should now work together to defy the West.

Sanctions should be ignored and a start could be made by resuming normal flights to the country. A beginning has, in fact, already been made in this respect. It is necessary for us to take appropriate action to make the West take heed of us and give us the proper respect that we deserve. We have to change the bad image that the West has of us and make sure that, in the future, it will treat us with justice.

But, first of all, current problems have to be resolved so that all parties are treated with fairness. It is time for the Arab world to assert itself and so demand the respect that is its due.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Catch-22 situation

Sir – The ailing Asian tiger economies of Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea may be nursed back to health if only foreign investors will stage a comeback.

This, however, is a catch-22 situation since foreign investors are the very first to flee at the slightest sign of economic trouble. As a result, stock markets in these countries have crashed due to capital flight. The contagion has already spread to Russia and currently to Brazil.

The first line of defense favored by the International Monetary Fund is for central banks to defend the value of currencies by raising interest rates to discourage speculators from hoarding US dollars purchased out of loans from banks.

However, when interest rates are raised, investments will inevitably suffer as people with excess funds would rather deposit their savings in banks or buy government bonds offering guaranteed higher yields instead of investing in the volatile stock markets. Moreover, the higher lending rates serve as a disincentive to business expansion.

Ultimately, defending the currency will lead to the contraction of the economy or economic recession. The Gross National Product (GNP) and government income derived from taxation will decline due to business contraction while unemployment figures will soar to record high levels.

Malaysia has recently adopted the extreme measure of fixing the exchange rate and ending the convertibility of the ringgit to insulate it from currency speculators.

But this serves to discourage more foreign investors faced with the non-repatriation of capital and profits. Moreover, foreign investments must remain in Malaysia for at least a year before they can be repatriated, subject to the approval of the monetary authorities.

In Chile, authorities have imposed a tax on foreign investments repatriated before the expi...

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ny Blair

s of harmony between and Beijing. g Kong politician y advocate Martin Blair of sacrificing r the sake of British contracts.

e we know this nment has adopted thical foreign poli d as a result of this prime minister to s like an economic y to me," Lee re-

ussed Lee's criti ply wrong" and ac of not reading a livered in Beijing human rights.

want me to say that reck Britain's rela hina, well, I'm not I'm afraid," Blair note of irritation.

was in the interests ing for Britain to elations with China that Beijing was obligations under a joint declaration the future of Hong Kong in 1984.

Britain returned the territory of 6.6 million people to China in July last year, ending 156 years of colonial rule.

Under a Sino-British agreement, Hong Kong will have a large degree of autonomy for 50 years.

Lee said he told Blair it was far too early to say whether the "one country, two systems" formula devised by late paramount leader Deng Xiaoping had worked for Hong Kong or not.

"I told him that as a matter of history, things in the PRC (People's Republic of China) work like a pendulum. When it swings to the right it's steady, things pick up in terms of the economy, in terms of human rights.

"But then suddenly it will swing violently to the left, and it will destroy every achievement along with it," said Lee, who is also a prominent barrister in the territory.

"I told him at the moment the pendulum in China is very much to the right, you have a very confident leadership. The proper time to judge the policy is when the pendulum swings to the left."

Whether Blair has given hostages to fortune, only time will tell. His own private view, according to his aides, is that change in China toward a more open society is unstoppable and that Britain should try to smooth the way for the Chinese leaders to cope with it.

Blair's fresh start in relations with China will bring a state visit to London by President Jiang next year. Between now and then he will be watching the pendulum closely. – Rtr

ple want me to say that I want to Britain's relations with China, m not in for that I'm afraid."

Tony Blair
British Prime Minister

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ıappy that the visit has been such success, doing so much to create onship of friends who talk to her, rather than of people who st each other."

Tung Chee-hwa
Hong Kong Chief Executive

❑❑❑

Welcome back PAL

Sir – It is great news that Philippine Airlines, the country's flag carrier, will resume operation soon. Thanks are due to the members of the PAL union who have voted to revive Asia's oldest airline. This will reduce the county's unemployment and boost our economy in the airline industry.

We will be overjoyed to see PAL airliners rise up high into the air once again.

Liezyl A. Montiro
Jeddah

Crippled capitalism

Sir – Tariq Ghazi's article "Crises cripple capitalism" (*Saudi Gazette*, October 8) provided an interesting analysis of the failing economies of the world, with special emphasis on capitalism.

He has correctly pinpointed the faults within the capitalist system and the tendency to provide short-term relief through various provisional methods. He has also presented an overview of the philosophies of democracy and communism which go along with capitalism and socialism respectively.

However, Ghazi's opinion that, "capitalism is an unwritten ideology unlike socialism, which is the fantasy of one man (Karl Marx) forced on society by brute force" is a generalization which ignores some critical aspects with global implications.

Ghazi himself pointed out that communism itself was produced by the Western intelligentsia and was imposed upon society by force. The question which should be considered is who comprised that intelligentsia and what was its philosophy?

Commenting on capitalism, Ghazi described it as an unwritten ideology which, of course, has engulfed the whole world. However capitalism, which cunningly deceives people by using the label "free market economy", is not at all free from the tight controls of institutions, and these dominate the economies, the banking systems, the market forces, the media and even the so-called democracies themselves, either directly, indirectly or through despotic means. How is all this done?

An answer to these questions would make the analysis of capitalism and its failure clearer and more meaningful. In his last paragraphs, Ghazi has hinted at an answer by suggesting that Islam could be a close ally of Western civilization which he fears may collapse.

The scenario is quite clear: first the creation of capitalism; then the creation of communism as a hostile force; then the Cold War; next the eliminating of communism which signaled the end of the Cold War and its threat to capitalism and democracy; finally the ideal of the New World Order.

But the prevailing forces are facing a potential challenge which is still in place, intact and more visible, natural and final. That is Islam, which is giving nightmares to the West because they it see only in negative terms.

Shaikh Nizamuddin
Riyadh

Arabs must look toward Europe

Sir – Israel knows very well that it can rely on great support from the US. Therefore the Arabs should look more to Europe and especially to France which has helped the Arabs against Israel in the past, notably in the 1973 war. Even Britain is establishing better relations with the Arab World through its economic interests in the Gulf states. By strengthening such ties, the Arabs will be in a stronger position against Israel, and will be better able to handle the Israeli maneuvering over Palestine, Syria and Lebanon. The Israeli position is hardening on these matters and a settlement is, as a result, becoming more difficult to achieve. The position would be very different if only Europe would get fully involved in the Mid-east peace process.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Ghazal and Talat Aziz

Sir – The *ghazal* evening staged in the Indian International School auditorium last Thursday was a deeply satisfying experience. The Jeddah fanciers of ghazal were greatly entertained by Talat Aziz. It was a performance of superb skill in ghazal singing.

Talat is an artiste who is naturally possessed of a rare sweetness of voice. His remarkable control of rhythm, his adroitness in diversifying a theme, and his ability in varying the pace were really admirable. *Ghazal* singing is an art and Talat performed it with consummate skill.

Ghazal concerts are not new in Jeddah and there is no dearth of such diversions in this city. What was new about this concert was Talat's artistic genius and the enthusiasm of the receptive audience. It was a thoroughly delightful evening that the *ghazal* lovers of Jeddah will cherish for a long, long time.

The dedication and hard work that went into the planning of this memorable evening was evident in every detail. The organizers of a concert of such exquisite quality certainly deserve our appreciation. Well done compatriots!

Syed H. Hashmi
Jeddah

Working mothers

Sir – I am writing in response to the article "Expert highlights role of women in state economy" by Aref M. Younis (*Saudi Gazette*, October 5) concerning working women in Saudi Arabia. I enjoyed the article.

However, I would like to mention some of the difficulties I am experiencing as a mother who would like to work. There are a lot of jobs available, but the obstacles one faces are quite a few.

To start with, the summer school vacation is far too long causing the problem of who will look after the children while the mother is at work. Also, the school hours are from 7.30 am to 1.00-2.00 pm. But jobs available for women, apart from those in a school, are from 7.00 or 8.00 am to 3.00 or 4.00 pm, or from 8.00 am to 12.00 and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Who will who will look after the children while the mother is at work.

If women are to be encouraged to work, then it would be appreciated if part-time jobs, or others to suit a mother, were made available.

I have quite a few qualifications and would like to work, but not at the expense of my children. I feel that nobody can look after children as their mother does. I am sure that if such things were taken into consideration we would have an increasing number of women contributing to the work force. I would certainly be one of them.

Umm Ibrahim
Makkah

Majko symbolizes new hope for beleaguered Albania

By Arthur Cakodhima

ALBANIA'S young new Prime Minister, Pandeli Majko, brings a new sense of hope to Tirana, analysts said on Friday, a day after parliament approved the 30-year-old.

The new youthful leader of the socialist-led coalition named a Cabinet filled with

The opposition Democratic Party vehemently opposed Majko's predecessor, Fatos Nano, who resigned on September 29 after disagreements with his coalition partners.

The democrats are as opposed to Majko as they were to Nano, calling the new leader a puppet of Nano.

Democratic Party leader Sali Berisha said street protests that were directed against Nano

dermined his efforts to improve the country.

The challenges facing Majko are formidable. Besides the opposition of the Democratic Party, the new prime minister takes over a country in economic and political shambles.

The conflict between ethnic Albanians and Serbs in Kosovo threatens to involve the Albanian military.

In addition, the possibility of

...r East will become ...lah Bin Abdul ...mmander of the ...rts a historic visit ... three important

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...n with a three-day ...outh Korea and ...d will be Pakistan. ... France, Morocco

...tries are expected ...global economy ...rabia has been ...id-east, but also in the general international arena. Its views are respected because it is known to be a force for peace and understanding.

Chinese Ambassador to the Kingdom, Yu Xing Zhi, has emphasized the importance Beijing attaches to Crown Prince Abdullah's visit. He said it would provide an opportunity for leaders of the two countries to exchange views on ways to develop relations and on regional and international issues.

Crown Prince Abdullah has himself touched on matters he will discuss during his visits. He said that the Arab and Muslim Worlds are concerned that misconceptions about Islam are being unjustly spread with no respect for the feelings of over a billion Muslims around the world.

The Crown Prince will also discuss the economic problems afflicting the world. The Asian economies have been in trouble for more than a year. Similarly, oil prices remain below their natural levels and this is affecting many developing economies. But the troubles are not confined to developing nations. The leaders of the industrialized nations have been warning about a likely global recession. The situation requires joint efforts on the part of all nations to avert further economic decline.

Saudi Arabia is part of the world economy and its leaders are eager to contribute to global economic stability. The Kingdom has been following sound economic policies and would like all other nations to play their part. Crown Prince Abdullah's visit to the Far East is a recognition of that region's importance to Saudi Arabia but also of its role in world affairs. In his meetings with regional leaders, he will stress that the interests of humanity can best be served through international cooperation based upon the principle of justice for all.



...cup of tea



...sing a rather interesting ...emony. One might even ...ar back as to assume that ...historic caveman ances... ...ibed some hot brew of ...s he sat shivering and ...ple of a cold winter eve-

...cup of tea has always ... fascination for people. ...n Cowper called it: "The ...t cheers." Samuel Pepys, ...famous diary for 1660, ..."I did send for a cup of ...China drink) of which I ...had drank before." Pre...ly, Pepys continued to ...t thereafter. Even Lewis ... of *Alice in Wonderland* ...could not resist the temp... of including description ...Mad Hatter's tea party in ...rk.

...rs of tea have flowed ...h kettle spouts since. ...ne is sad to report, things ...ot changed for the better. ...p of tea is no longer just ...; it has become a ritual. It will hardly be an exaggeration to say that the cup of tea may be the biggest single influence in our lives today.

Writers drink endless cups of tea to marshal their thoughts; pessimists drown their grief in it. Associations are formed and broken over cups of tea. Nothing can take place without it having first been discussed over a cup of tea. Meetings start and end with cups of tea.

The proximity of the region to China not withstanding, the blame for introducing tea to the region must be shouldered squarely by the British colonialists. It was they who 'sold' the habit of tea drinking in order to provide custom to the many tea estates in which they had commercial interests. The result is before us today.

Before lovers of tea descend on me like a ton of bricks, let me hasten to explain that I am not a tea-hater.

What I would advocate, however, is that the tea drinking habit, like all other habits, should be in moderation and not be overdone. The matter could, perhaps, be sorted out over a cup of tea.

...lid-east ...eems unlikely

...man James Rubin. ...format – days of talks in ... of Palestinian families who lost their homes in Palestine back in 1948...

LETTERS

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Turkey-Syria conflict

Sir – The Mid-east already has enough problems but now we have the dispute between Turkey and Syria to make matters worse. A very dangerous situation is developing. Arab and Muslim leaders realize the dangers, not just for the two countries concerned, but for the whole region as conflict can very easily spread. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has already been on a mediation mission to Ankara and Damascus, and now his foreign minister is following in his footsteps.

The situation is made all the more dangerous because of the role of Israel with whom Turkey has an alliance. The Arabs are distressed that Turkey, a Muslim country, should be allied with their traditional enemy. There are already enough problems with Israel in the Mid-east but these have been made worse with the appointment of Ariel Sharon, the man responsible for the massacre of Palestinians in Lebanon, as the foreign minister of Israel. That appointment seems to mean the end of the peace process. Things were bad enough without the current problem between Israel and Turkey.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Sinhalese responsibility

Sir – This is a response to J.M. Ismail's letter that appeared in the *Saudi Gazette* of October 10.

Mr Ismail has sought to link the success of the Tamils in the past, to their greater success in converting to Christianity, when compared to their Sinhalese compatriots, during colonial rule. Christian missionary schools were built in almost all the major cities and towns in the island – north, south, east, west and the center. Both the Sinhalese (Christians and Buddhists) and the Tamils (Hindus, Christians and Muslims) benefited from the modern education imparted by these schools and the discipline that accompanied it. The high literacy rate Sri Lanka has had since before independence could not have been achieved without these schools. Both the Sinhalese Buddhists and the Tamil Hindus converted to Christianity for a variety of reasons both lofty and mercenary, in equal proportions. The only region in Sri Lanka to escape the pressure for large-scale conversion to Christianity was the area covered by the Kandyan Kingdom. This was because this area was spared Portuguese and Dutch rule and had a much shorter period of British rule.

The educational facilities in Jaffna were quantitatively not different from those available in other large cities such as Colombo, Kandy or Galle. Tamil areas other than Jaffna suffered from a lack of educational facilities as much as the smaller towns and villages in the Sinhala areas. The Tamils in the Jaffna peninsula were living in a relatively arid part of the country which had minimal natural resources, no industry as such to speak of and was densely populated. There was also tradition of learning among the nongovernmental Sinhalese commission has demanded that "it should be reiterated that Sri Lanka is and always has been a unitary state (in the strict legal sense) and take steps to see that it remains so for all time." In the face of such demands from powerful Sinhalese lobby groups, it would not be surprising if a separate state for the Tamils becomes a reality some time in the future. The Sinhala political elite have always sought to fallaciously equate federalism with separation. This would ultimately be the undoing of Sri Lanka as we know it now.

As to Mr Ismail's accusation that I have contradicted myself on the question of violence, I wish to point out that the said letter refers to events that preceded Tamil militancy – a period when there was very little "tit" but plenty of "tat." I do not, however, condone a political equilibrium based on tit-for-tat violence between the Sinhalese and the Tamils in Sri Lanka. Sinhalese, as the majority people in Sri Lanka with ultimate political power exclusively reposited in the hands of their elected representatives, have a moral responsibility to see that justice prevails in Sri Lanka with regard to its minorities. The fate of Sri Lanka is ultimately in the hands of the Sinhalese people.

Dr N. Rajasingham
Al-Khobar

Return to communism

Sir – Tariq Ghazi in his column "Crises Cripple Capitalism" presented an interesting comparison of capitalism and communism. However, he failed to mention the shortcomings of capitalism. Communism and socialism came into existence because of the shortcomings of capitalism. Communism took birth in the early 20th century and met its death at the end of the 20th century. The collapse of communism was not because it lacked originality as the author states, but it was because the very people who introduced communism later exploited it in order to gain personal advantages.

It is correct that capitalism did not emerge from any ideology. The conflicts between capitalists and the poor, and the suppression of the labor class at the hands of capitalists made the lives of people in that class very miserable. Trade unions and strikes for the legal rights of labor took their shape because of the atrocities perpetrated by the capitalists.

Islam is the only religion which prohibits such oppression. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said the wages of the poor should be paid before their sweat dries. Islam has presented a way of life where all are equal. The concept of socialism is also taken from Islam.

The author asks, "Is the world returning to a controlled communism?" Yes, it is. If we carefully observe the political situation in Europe we will perceive the answer. The victory of Jospin in France, Tony Blair in Britain and the latest victory of Schroeder in Germany are indicative of

...er has to exist in the ...l but a balance is ...ed. The power in ...tion is the military ...economic ...r on which ...cal power rests.



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living? Who will help the Palestinians to get the land? Did all the appeals made to Israel to lift the air embargo and allow the Palestinians to cross into Israel to earn their living have any effect? Did they fill the empty stomachs and enable the Palestinians to maintain their dignity?

Toward the end of my article "Is There any Hope", in which I argued that President Arafat was in an unenviable situation, I wrote: "He is threatened by his enemies, criticized by his supporters and accused by his neighbors. He is asked to make concessions when he has nothing to give. If he accepts what he is given, they say he has abandoned the cause. If he objects to this, they say he should take what he can get but demand more".

The critics do not provide any tools which Arafat can use. He needs something concrete, not high-flown words and hollow expressions. He needs tools that can be translated into action. Talk is easy but action is difficult. Again it is a question of power. The world recognizes this and nothing else. An injured party has no alternative but to submit while it seeks to acquire power for itself.

The third event I want to discuss is of a different nature. It is the August 20 American attack on a factory belonging to a sovereign state just because of suspicions that the factory was manufacturing substances that could be used in chemical warfare. But can mere suspicion justify the violation of a state's sovereignty? Did this factory play any part in the bombing of the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam?

No one finds terrorism acceptable. It is forbidden by all Divine Revelations as also by human law. At the same time no one can countenance unjust and tyrannical actions carried out on the grounds of suspicion. The voice of power announced: "We struck at the most important terrorist bases in Afghanistan and at chemical facilities in Sudan". If the first part of this statement may be accepted with reservations, is the second part acceptable on any grounds whatsoever? Were those two countries not covered by the UN charter? Did they not have sovereignty and were they not entitled to dignity? Was it not enough that Sudan was already suffering internal and external crises?

Again it was a question of power and nothing but power. There were strong reactions to the American action: it was denounced and deplored; crowds chanted and demonstrated, flags and pictures were burned; ambassadors were recalled; and there was a call for an African summit. There was also talk of sending a fact-finding committee to ascertain just what was being produced by the factory and there were demands for compensation. When the US did not respond to any of this, Sudan simply asked it to admit its mistake. In fact, Sudan was powerless to do anything else. It did not have the means to make an effective response and had no powerful backer. Even if it did have a strong ally, there would only have been statements of support and solidarity, and expressions of sympathy. If Sudan had had an ally with the power to retaliate against the US and threaten its interests, without resorting to terrorism, the attitude of the US would have been very different and it would not have behaved in the way it did. However, in the present situation, the arrogant voice of power prevailed and the weak party had to submit while it desperately sought help.

The fourth event is related to the nuclear explosions in India and Pakistan. It is somewhat different from the others. One country suddenly acquired power and behaved in an arrogant and threatening way. This continued until its rival acquired power equal to it. The first country, India, then moderated its manner, became less threatening and requested dialogue with Pakistan. This illustrates the fact that a balance of power through the possession of conventional or nuclear weapons makes for peace. I discussed this matter in a previous article, entitled "No Place for the Weak". I now want to look at the matter as an example of the use of power and to see the advantage of a balance of power.

On May 11, when India conducted five nuclear tests, it felt proud and superior. It haughtily invited Pakistan to the negotiating table for discussions. These were to be without preconditions but India stipulated that the Kashmir problem must not be raised – even though that was the main issue between them. India also threatened to occupy the part of Kashmir being administrated by Pakistan and said that, from then onwards, it would not tolerate any interference from Pakistan in Kashmir. India also made many statements warning Pakistan to stop its anti-Indian policy. It said that if Pakistan did not submit to Indian wishes, India would take firm action. India clearly felt that the balance of power had tilted in its favor. Power speaks, especially if it is nuclear power.

This was the situation until May 28, when the news of Pakistan's successful nuclear tests was announced. Then India suddenly changed its tune and made conciliatory statements. It announced that it had no hostile intentions toward Pakistan and that it was ready for dialogue. Their meeting duly started and the important issues, including Kashmir, were discussed. This illustrates how a balance in nuclear deterrence can promote peace. In their latest statements, India and Pakistan have emphasized their commitment to reducing the danger of conflict between them and to solving all outstanding problems, including that of Jammu and Kashmir, peacefully." In this case there was no injured party; no submission of one side to the other. While both countries have equal power they will listen to each other and heed the views of the other side.

What can we conclude from these four examples of the use of power?

The matter is self-evident: Power has to exist in the world but a balance is needed. The power in question is the military and economic power on which political power rests. As Frederick the Great said, politics without power is like music without instruments. And an economy without powerful support will always be vulnerable; it will need others to protect it.

...their ranks and join hands to get rid of the BJP's fascist regime. The sooner the BJP government is toppled, the better.

Mohammad Faheem
Jeddah

Indian schools

Sir — This is in reference to the letter of the Indian ambassador – who happens to be the patron of the International Indian Schools in the Kingdom. The ambassador formulated the idea of changing one-third of the members of the managing committee annually – replacing them with new faces, and appointing a new chairman.

It is to be noted that the present committee members are not much interested in improving the schools' educational system; instead they have their own personal agenda and selfish motives.

The new committee should be composed of a panel of experts representing the parents.

Necessary measures should be taken now to save the schools from the hands of a selfish, unskilled and dishonest people.

The standard of education in the International Indian School in Riyadh is very poor. Urgent attention should be paid to the matter. The school badly needs an overhauling, as it has been ruined in the last two years.

Abdul Waheed
Riyadh

India's team deserved defeat

Sir — South Africa, the Commonwealth champions, deservedly claimed the Mini-World Cricket Cup by beating the formidable West Indies in the finals. A tint of weariness seems to have beset the West Indies team in this match – perhaps, because it had to play in the finals the very next day it played in the semi-finals.

The Indian team, on the other hand, lost its bid for the Mini-World Cricket Cup after being defeated by the West Indies in the semi-finals.

Whether one enjoyed these matches or not, the fans' jubilation in the 'jam-packed' stadium was worth enjoying.

It is the Sri Lankan team that first taught the cricketing world that cricket must be played on a ball to ball basis. The trend of scoring runs has evolved to become fast paced right from the first ball. Almost all the teams have, more or less, succeeded in adapting themselves to such a playing style.

However, India's pathetic scoring rate of 2 to 3 in the beginning, while playing the semi-final match against the West Indies, is disappointing.

In a one-day cricket match, the pace of scoring runs must be maintained, so as to match the required run rate, regardless of losing the wickets.

Moreover, unless the team is extremely good in fielding, winning becomes a distant possibility. Sloppy fielding, the missed catches and the uninspired chase of the ball displayed by the Indian team, no doubt, enabled the West Indies team to win the semi-final match at ease.

Brian Lara, the captain of the West Indies cricket team, proved to be a responsible captain when he played in a calm and composed manner.

The most important thing he revealed as a sportsman is that he was more motivated to beat the Indian team than to beat Sachin Tendulkar of India – another cricket giant, who is often portrayed as Lara's competitor by the press and fans alike.

K. Kamalakaran
Riyadh

Not the final step

Sir — It is not yet the final step in getting a Mid-east peace agreement. There are still many obstacles to overcome. Movement in the right direction toward peace requires the correct understanding of both sides to the conflict.

This is not the first time that an agreement has been reached between the Arabs and Israel. However, it is not that easy to get Israel to give up what it has usurped by force from the Arabs.

The Israelis will not voluntarily withdraw from the Arab territories they occupied by force. Consequently, the Palestinians will not regain their rights until the Israelis are forced to comply with this new agreement, as well as with all UN Security Council resolutions.

Hashim I. Filali
Jeddah

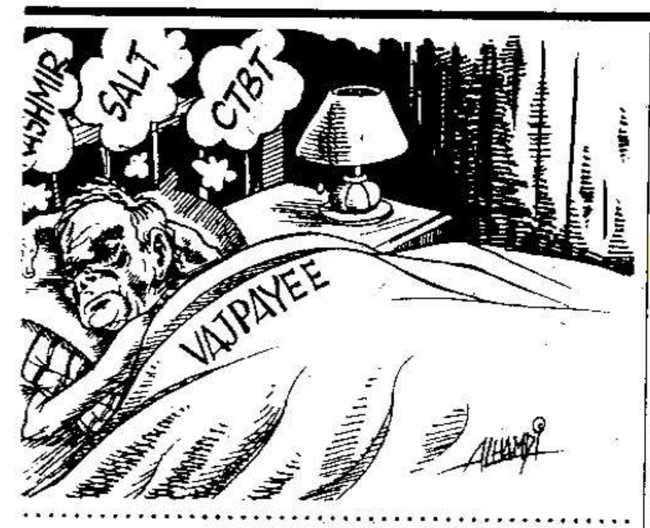
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y year after year", which in his view
present realities and

Nasser Al-Kidwa, the chief Palestinian observer at the UN, has tried to draw the world's attention to what Israel is seeking to do. He said "it is unfortunate that the Israeli side has chosen to present a flawed interpretation of the Wye River Memorandum".

Israel is insisting that a Palestinian security plan is the condition for the implementation of the Wye deal. This is an incorrect interpretation of the agreement.

attempting.

The Wye deal is just a small part of
settlement that has to be ironed out b
and the Palestinians. If Israel manage
agreement – as it did the Oslo Accord
will be able to guarantee peace, whic
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n India's civil ınts play politics



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to one party see to it that even the routine work of the opposition party is blocked.

The worst aspect is that even the topmost secrets are conveyed to respective political parties. Some ministers confess that they do not express their views frankly in Cabinet meetings because the officers are present.

This is a serious matter, which all political parties must ponder over. Theirs may be a small gain. But the nation's loss is enormous because no officer feels accountable. He or she gets away with everything because of protection by political parties. This is reprehensible and all parties are blameworthy.

I do not think that a country, which eats, drinks and sleeps politics, can now turn back and agree upon keeping certain fields like administration out of politics.

When ministers use bureaucrats for political purposes, it is not surprising that the latter become dilatory and defiant. All that the government can do is to make such rules and delineate the working of the bureaucracy. Once the boundary is outlined, it will be easy to spot the evasion.

Jawaharlal Nehru would openly say that one of the problems he faced was "a reorganization of our administrative structure."

But what surprises one is that despite many efforts — and good intentions — the government offices continue to work in the rut and carry on old traditions which have little significance today.

An eminent expert in public administration, Paul H. Apple-

case. There is nothing derogatory about a clerk giving his opinion.

But it only shows that a case is not immediately dealt with at a high level to lessen the red tape on the one hand and to enable an officer of experience and caliber to dispose it of quickly on the other.

At present, there is too much insistence on communication through formal channels, too much cross-reference, too many reviews by legal officers, too much control of details, too much primarily the conduct of programs beneficial to the nation.

Hence the importance of objects, targets, results, responsibilities and the delegation of authority.

Mobilization of men – infusing them with purpose and making them responsible for producing results – is the challenge before the country. If we are to work for a welfare state, the whole of our administrative structure has to function somewhat differently.

The essential problem is to develop a practical and realistic approach.

The very word "administration" is too narrowly conceived. There is an obsession about rules and regulations and an acute shortage of men of action.

The present rules do not permit quick vertical mobility. They should be amended to provide more opportunities for promotion at the lower level. Those who excel should be adequately rewarded.

One other way to get results is to restructure the civil services. The present system of classification of the posts into four classes, or gazetted and nongazetted, should be abolished.

The services can be divided into technical and nontechnical. And those jobs, which necessitate the posting of employees to

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Respecting the agreement

Sir – There is no meaning to getting the Wye River Plantation Memorandum signed by all the concerned parties, including the US, except to make it more acceptable. Indeed, President Bill Clinton and King Hussein of Jordan, which has already signed an agreement with Israel, added their political weight and prestige to the signing of the agreement.

Nevertheless, what is the point in signing an agreement that no one will implement? There should be some procedure by means of which the implementation of the agreement could be ensured, so that the summit will not have been conducted in vain.

If all sides respect the agreement they have signed, then the summit will have succeeded. Otherwise, the agreement will have been on paper only, and all the negotiations will have simply failed.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Liberalization by East Asia

Sir – Between now at the end of the century, East Asia is likely to contribute between a third and half of all new global trade, continuing the pattern of highly successful commercial expansion of the past decade.

However, its opportunities to secure long-term market share while giving an added boost to the world economy depend on more than just continuing to do what has worked so well in the past. A new round of region-wide economic liberalization is needed.

East Asia has more to gain from free trade and investment than any other area. It also has more to lose if the trade surpluses it has amassed, and the political sensitivities they arouse in the West, pushed industrialized nations toward any forms of import protection and discrimination.

East Asia has an unprecedented chance to be the catalyst which sparks further liberalization worldwide.

Moreover, East Asia is too important a player in international trade to remain on the sidelines as major policy initiatives are decided by the industrialised countries.

Trade imbalances between the region and those countries may well be unsustainable, economically and politically, in the medium term.

East Asia economies received nearly 13 per-

cent of global flows of forei
in 1992.

They have become such at
for investment that short-te
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Countries in the region
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A 50 percent reduction in
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Unilateral liberalization b
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tial trading bloc.

Equally crucial, such conc
Asia would depend for its su
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where in the world. Concerted
by East Asia would be an
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By benefiting the rest of t
encourage industrialized nati
an initiative by turning away
and inward orientation.

D.

A step ahead with fas



FASHION is like an exclusive club. Either you are a member or not. And if you are not, it is no use trying to gain entry. Though having enough money to throw around helps, fashion is not really a function of the contents of one's wallet. One may have all the money in the world and yet grope around in the world of fashion without significant success. On the other hand, limited funds will not hamper a member of the fashion 'club' to make his distinct statement.

Fashion is ephemeral, fleeting. It has never been highly thought of by intellectuals. Said William Shakespeare in *Much*

vide, as one said, was quite distinct and discernible.

In the Middle Ages, only the upper crust could afford to have their garments stitched by seamstresses according to the changing fashion. The poor just managed as best as they could.

The invention of the sewing machine created the first dent in the clothing trade. With the availability of the machine, stitched clothing spread to a wider clientele cutting across the so-

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occupied by an independent. In the Senate, however, the position of the parties has remained unchanged at 55:45 in favor of the Republicans.

The gains for the Democrats in the House are remarkable considering that the party of the incumbent president had not made gains in midterm elections since 1934. The average loss since World War II had been 27. This success is being interpreted by the Democrats as a signal from the voters that the impeachment process should be abandoned. This would greatly ease pressure on the president and help him to concentrate on policy management. Democratic eyes would then be able to focus more hopefully on the next presidential elections in 2000.

have clearly voted for the status quo.

It now seems clear that Clinton's personal misconduct has not influenced the pattern of voting. For the electorate, there were many other issues to consider. Their main focus was on the nation's economic health. The Democrats succeeded in wooing the middle class, the backbone of democracy. This section of society always feels the good or bad impact of the economy before any othe group. The middle class has generally supported th Republicans but there has now been a significant shift in its support. This group, feeling comfortable with the economic climate, has come to rescue the president regardless of what are considered to be h personal peccadilloes.



casts shadow
-Pak talks

the troops in Siachen affect the discussions.
maintains that relations between the two countries not be held hostage to single issue.
an, over the years, has insisting that the ties not become normal un- 'core issue of Kashmir' ed. However, the very Pakistan is now pre- talk on other issues a slight change in Is-'s stance," sources in intain.
iachen issue was last in Islamabad in No- 992. Described as the ty area in the world m the polar regions, tinue to boom in this war zone in the world eak, treeless mountain ch to a height of over ters with temperatures ng to minus 40 de- tigrade.
ll be the seventh time ary 1986 that the de- retaries of the two will be discussing ndia at present holds ntage in the 76- long Siachen Glacier lanked by the Karak-

oram range to the east and by the Saltora Range in the west.

India has lost over 500 soldiers and more than 1,000 wounded, since the first conflict in the Himalayan Range occured in 1984.

Pakistan says that it was a "bitter fact" that both countries had reached an agreement during their talks on Siachen in 1989, but India immediately resiled from the pact. Delhi denies this charge.

The Sir Creek issue is a leftover from the India-Pakistan 1965 war. The area is located in the Rann of Kutch and pertains to delimitation of marshlands on the Pakistan Sindh and Indian Gujarat state border. The two countries have held five rounds of discussions since 1992.

India plans to present Pakistan with "concrete evidence" of Islamabad's involvement in acts of terrorism in the country during the talks.

A newspaper report said last week that over 34,000 Indians including 5,101 soldiers were killed during the last 14 years in Pakistan-sponsored 'terrorism,' mainly by its Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). – DPA



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A different yardstick

Sir – It is very strange that the United States of America will do its best to enforce UN sanctions only on countries which oppose its hegemony.

All the countries that used to befriend the USSR in the past, became instant enemies of the US. When the USSR disintegrated, the Eastern block countries found themselves lost. With only one superpower dominating the world, these countries had to adapt to its system, or face hard times.

The Iraqi people have suffered long enough from the UN-imposed sanctions. Moreover, Iraq announced that it will no longer cooperate with UN inspectors because some of them are spies.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

'Islamophobia' in American media

Sir – Allah, the Qur'an, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), Islam and the Muslims all are victims and targets of the Zionist propaganda today. From gambling to football, shoes to cinema, the Internet to electronic media – everywhere we are being abused and harassed by Zionist propaganda and indoctrination.

According to the Council for American Islamic Relations (CAIR), a US Jewish newspaper published a letter to the editor in its January 6 edition that called Muslims "animals" and hinted that Islam should cease to exist.

The writer first commented favorably on anti-Muslim comments by Christian Coalition founder Pat Roberson. (According to transcripts of the October 27 Christian Broadcasting Network "700 Club" program, Roberston said: "To see Americans become followers of Islam is nothing short of insanity.") He then besmudges the honor of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) in a vile way.

In response to a complaint by CAIR, the Miami-based newspaper's editor issued an apology under the headline, "An apology to our Islamic brothers." The apology read: "In *Jewish Journal* editions for the week of January 6, a letter to the editor quoted religious broadcaster Pat Robertson who made a slur against adherents of Islam. The writer then repeated the slur himself in the body of the letter.

"Although neither the Roberston quote nor the letter writer's statement reflected the views of our publications, we realize upon reflection that the harsh statements went beyond the limits of civilized discourse.

"The letter should not have been published.

"The *Jewish Journal* recognizes the great contributions America's Islam (sic) adherents have made to the country as a whole, and we further acknowledge Islam's place in history as a major world religion. We apologize if the Letter to the Editor gave offense to any party."

CAIR board member Dr Mujeeb Cheema pointed out that 'Islamophobia' is now at epidemic levels in the West. The only cure for this disease is education about Islam coupled with social and political activism on the part of American Muslims.

Md Abdul Matin
Riyadh

Riyadh, city of mosques

Sir – If Cairo can boast with having one thousand minarets, come to Riyadh. This great city has double or even quadruple the number that Cairo has.

The mosques vary from modern structures of immense beauty to simple mud edifices devoid of any decoration, such as the ones found in Batha near the impressive Queen's Building, which are hardly accessible except through narrow twisted lanes.

Some old mosques might have been removed due to renovations, but many more remained intact for their historical landmark.

The body that decides which mosques should be removed and which ones should be left intact, is the Higher Council for Development of Riyadh.

One of the most beautiful mosques ever to be built over the last decade is the King Khaled Mosque in Ummal Hamam.

The mosque with its white-washed walls and beautiful domes and minarets as well as its multi-colored stained glass windows, resemble Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem.

Hundreds of mosques have undergone complete renovation, so much so that Riyadh could be nicknamed the "city of mosques."

Soon after the muezzins echo their Adhan through their microphones, hundreds of people make their way to the nearest mosque. This in itself is a wonderful sight to behold.

Vehicles with loudspeakers spur people to go the mosque, including shopkeepers. And during the prayer times a silence descends on the city, reflecting a sense of religious piety.

Saeed A. Siraj
Al-Kharj

Tradition of ailing leaders

By Patrick Worsnip

IF President Boris Yeltsin looks sick and at times incoherent, it's *deja vu* all over again for Russians who remember the late Soviet ruler Leonid Brezhnev two decades ago.

For the last quarter of a cen-

began in 1973 when a nurse began overdosing him with sedatives and sleeping pills, damaging his central nervous system and causing the slurred speech which was his main outward symptom.

One of his aides, Georgy Arbatov, has said that from 1976 Brezhnev was unable to take an

"In that sense, now we have a much more dangerous type of leadership," she said.

The Soviet system allowed no way for leaders to retire gracefully. Like monarchs or popes, they either died in office, like Lenin, Stalin, Brezhnev and others, or were ousted in

member, no one expects an early ...

Rhetoric and ideological propaganda apart, people do not forget and forgive "sins" of the enemy buried in past centuries. That is why hundreds of years old Greek-Turkish animosity still remains powerful. Unfortunately, Cyprus is the land where these two powers have been demonstrating their mutual dislike.

Turkey has greeted the decision not to deploy S-300 missiles as a victory. It had been warning the Greek-Cypriots that it would destroy the missiles if they were brought to the island. The threat was real and President Simitis rightly advised Cyprus against deployment.

The decision has, however, put President Clerides in trouble at home. The junior partners in his government have called the about-turn a political ... therefore, the Crete option is also being opposed by Turkey.

The missiles are already in a Russian port waiting to be shipped and Moscow wants Nicosia to fulfill the contract in spite of Greek-Cypriot fears of retaliation. A cash-strapped Russia cannot allow $420 million to slip out of its hands.

The crisis will widen if the controversial missiles are installed in Crete. The idea of this plan is to reduce the chance of Turkish action since any attack on missiles in a Greek island would be likely to provoke a war with Greece.

However, the missiles would still be at the disposal of the Greek-Cypriots. This is a policy fraught with danger in the most volatile region of the world.

ALHAMDI

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would have been destroyed."

"But as far as the ultimate goal of this whole effort, which is to force political change in Iraq, it's hard to see any progress at all. Nothing has changed, and no one seems to know where we go from here."

Most of Baghdad's power elite, especially leaders of the ruling clans, are on the winning side of an odd political equation.

That fact is one of two fundamental political realities there.

The other is that Iraq sits atop 10 percent of the world's oil – more than any country in the world except Saudi Arabia – more than the United States, Mexico and Canada combined.

Foreigners who live in Baghdad say that given these two realities, there is little prospect that sanctions and limited bombing will cause Iraqi military commanders or clan leaders to rebel against Saddam.

"Everyone in and around Baghdad, including the whole political and military elite, sees the size of the oil resource and wants a piece of it," said a European who has lived here for years and closely monitors public sentiment.

"They all know that overthrowing Saddam would trigger a chain of events that might well lead to Saddam's support base losing everything. They ...

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Naidu's games

Sir – Chandrababu Naidu, AP Chief Minister, is the most corrupt official in India. Laloo Yadav's corruption is nothing compared to his.

It is amusing to read that Naidu's government in Andhra Pradesh plans to construct 2,500 mosques within the next 3 months!

What is amazing is that there are thousands of mosques that have been sealed under the cover of *Protected Monuments* by the Archaeological Survey of India. If these mosques are protected as historical monuments, what arrangements have been made for their maintenance? Near the Qutubshahi tombs at Golconda Fort, the municipality dumps 7 tons of garbage everyday.

All parties suddenly remember Muslim voters when elections are just around the corner. Naidu knows that defeat awaits him, so he is trying all the tricks in the book.

It is a fact that Muslims can bring down a Naidu or Vajpayee government, but they cannot install a government sympathetic to their just cause. Sadly, Muslim votes may bring down a government, but cannot install one.

My suggestion to Naidu is to appoint two Muslims, at least as peons, in the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, rather than try to fool Muslim voters by proposing the construction of 2,500 mosques within the next 3 months! Appointing Muslims even as peons would send a more effective message to Muslim voters.

All parties are the same when it comes to issues relevant to Muslim voters. Because Muslims have matured politically, they will not be fooled by Naidu. Nevertheless, it seems that Naidu does not have the common sense to realize that Muslims are intelligent enough to see through his games.

Khwaja Rasheeduddin Fareed
Jeddah

IFA British sympathizers

Sir – Your *Variety* page coverage of the program held by the Indian Fine Arts Association (IFA) entitled "An Indian cultural program rides on talent" (*Saudi Gazette*, December 23) was more like an elaborate report detailing the association president's biographical data, rather than a depiction of any past and/or present highlights of IFA.

I pity this British-Indian president who finds pride in blowing his own trumpet. At this juncture, should we feel that India was colonized not because the British were invaders, but because Indians wanted to be dominated by them? After fifty years of independence from British occupation, there are still those few British sympathizers who take delight in having a British-Indian as their guru!

Mr Antony Isac and other readers should be told that the other 18 members, who couldn't stand such subjugation, boycotted the present presidency, but attended the program, nevertheless, just because they are nationalists.

Some people call themselves Indian-born European nationals, due to their precarious past. It is a historical fact that when the British were evacuated from India, those who followed were only ... tional – plunging deeply into what your paper reported as the achievements of one member who is very talented "in fixing the banners." The delight of these twelve members culminated when they were ironically referred to by this IFA president in his speech as his subordinates. So, is the IFA a dictatorship?

My hat's off to Mr Antony Isac for shedding light on the twelve devoted disciples with the tainted feathers in their caps.

Finally, I hope the IFA would overcome the present dilapidation, and return to its past glory.

An IFA member [name withheld]
Jeddah

Ramadan activities

Sir – Hotels and restaurants throughout the Kingdom have special treats for celebrating Ramadan, both *Iftar* and *Suhur*. All these facilities are doing a roaring trade.

Muslims are gaining the benefits from all these offers as many special offers are made on goods from clothing, motor cars, furniture and food.

But perhaps the most precious benefit of Ramadan is the fact that people turn to Allah in this month. They perform additional prayers, become generous in donating food, money and whatever is within their means during this holy month.

Now that the schools have closed for the Ramadan vacation, it would be better for students to spend their time constructively, reciting the Holy Qur'an, praying and performing acts of piety. They could visit Makkah and Madina rathher than the beachfront, visit the mosques instead of places of pleasure.

I also want to suggest that the moral lessons learnt from this holy month will make the youth think twice before indulging in mall crawling, just "hanging out" in wrong places. I want to suggest they get involved in their mosque activities and join youth organizations, such as the Boys Scouts where they will learn not only many excellent qualities but mix with a caliber of young Muslims who can only be a benefit to them and their nation.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

O Man! O Man!

Sir – With the coming of 1999, is there new hope for mankind?

Living in the present times,
Hearing of crimes as nursery rhymes,
How can one in man believe,
Cause of so much pain and grief?
Oppressing each other as they prey
By deeds of those who've gone astray.
O Mankind! Pure at birth,
Why revel so in doom and death?
Though in peace you could survive
Away from it you always drive.
To seek for power indeed is evil
And to use it ill you serve the devil.
Lording it always over others
Never trying to serve your brothers.
History repeats itself again
Victory or defeat, man is the same.
Cruel and vain, in search of fame,

...cal councils. Just a ...tions for governors ...ates. Then, a week ...ere concluded. The ...f with the presiden-

The south is richer in resources than the north, the country's huge oil deposits being in the Niger delta. The north remained backward, with a less developed educational system, during the colonial period, but it has made progress in all fields since then. Making up

...lance. It is important for the representatives to remain in contact with the electors and to be subject to their scrutiny. Mutual trust must develop, bringing good government to all the people. This opportunity has now, at last, opened up for Nigeria.

...ore sincere ...ir leader

...h Nasser Al-Fawzan



...arse, no one approves ...mmolation which is a ... and futile method. ...less. I do not intend to ...gement on the Kurds'

...mentioned these cases ...rfaced in order to show ...e are thousands of oth- ... did not slide into the ... of passivity. I just ...to illustrate the differ- ...sacrifice and dedication ... the ordinary Kurd and ...r of the Kurdish cause. ...edly, the leader has ...ed many daring acts ...d his own life. Yet, the

difference between him and an ordinary Kurd is self-evident.

The leader may have aspired for some personal gain, while the ordinary Kurd was striving for the common good. The leader sought his own interests out of necessity, but the ordinary Kurd did what he did for the common cause.

We presume that those who burned themselves were angry at the attitude of others toward their cause. Yet, if we hypothesize that they burned themselves in protest against what befell their leader Ocalan, who was more worried about his own indigestion, the matter becomes even more perplexing and thrilling.

I don't want to give the impression that I belittle the sacrifices and selflessness of leaders.

Far from it, I just wanted to show that ordinary people also have a large potential for sacrifice. This potential may erupt at times because of high pressure and ignorance of how to control it or use it. The problem, however, is that the simple-minded ordinary individual doesn't know how to climb up the political ladder. This is man's major problem.

LETTERS

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A visit in vain

Sir – Indian Premier Vajpayee's highly publicized "bus diplomacy" cannot melt a single drop of ice. Though he was very warmly welcomed in Pakistan, it is a fact that Nawaz Sharif had to receive him in order to honor the undertakings he had made in the *Indian Express*.

No one can imagine that Pakistan would come forward to be a good friend. There have been so many meetings between prime ministers in the past and so many proposals to improve relations – all to no avail.

India has been inclined to fulfil its promises, but Pakistan's responses have been very cold. For example, it is very easy for Pakistanis to obtain an Indian visa from any Indian embassy in the world.

But for Indians to get a Pakistani visa is an unbelievable dream.

Vajpayee's visit was politically motivated at the national level because the BJP's image had been badly damaged by the policy of some of its sister organizations toward minorities and it was seeking to repair this damage.

There is nothing new in the Lahore Declaration. It is just repeating platitudes.

Pakistan will continue to fuel Kashmiri activists. To Pakistani leaders, Kashmir is a hot issue: they would like to improve their political strength by cultivating Kashmiri sentiment.

Already Pakistan has declared that its stand on Kashmir will not be changed. In its editorial, the *Urdu News* has quoted the Pakistani foreign minister as saying: "When the enemy is visiting us, even he should not be stoned." This is a slap in the face of "Bus diplomacy".

It indicates that Pakistan is not interested in improving relations and that the bus trip was no more than a mere photo opportunity.

A. Salam
Tabuk

Help the Kosovars

Sir – The conflict between the Serbs and the Kosovars in Yugoslavia is, at the moment, the greatest crisis confronting the world.

However, this is not something that has arisen overnight. The ethnic Albanians, or Kosovars, have always felt out of place in Yugoslavia and, since other peoples split off from that state following the demise of communism in Eastern Europe, it was clear that the Kosovars would be wanting their own independence.

If Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia could acquire their freedom, why not Kosovo?

The Kosovars will never be able to defeat the powerful Serb army so the only hope for a just solution to the problem is if the US, as part of NATO, bombs the Serbs.

Most of the people of Kosovo are Muslims. This is yet another example of Muslims being in a weak position and suffering as a result – it is the Palestinian situation all over again, but in a different geographical setting.

It is very difficult for Muslims to get justice in this world.

We must make every effort to see that, whether as Arabs or Kosovars, Muslims secure their rights as human beings.

Until this happens there can be no peace in the world. But once it is achieved there will be harmony between nations and religions, and mankind will be able to march happily into the 21st century.

As a first step, the Kosovars must be helped against their Serb oppressors.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Looming disaster

Sir – The situation in Kosovo is getting worse with the passing of every day. The Yugoslav government, supported by Russia and some NATO countries, does not respect any international obligations and is in no mood to grant autonomy to ethnic Albanians.

Its recent action of holding up the international monitors at the border and its huge military build-up are clear indications of the Yugoslav government's intention to suppress the ethnic Albanians.

A big military operation seems to be on the cards. Though there were negotiations in France, the period of grace given has allowed the Yugoslav government time to strengthen its forces.

It is right that the conflicting positions within the Contact Group, and the indecision of NATO, have encouraged the Serbs to prepare for an onslaught on the Kosovars.

The present situation is due to the inactivity of NATO and other groups. They know very well the ill-intentions of Milosevic who on many occasions has demonstrated his brutality. Even now, when the huge military build-up is reported, the various countries are only issuing statements. The Kosovars' decision to form a provisional government led by the Kosovan Liberation Army (KLA) arises from desperation and it also shows the irresponsible behavior of the Contact Group countries.

NATO's reluctance to act upon its verbal threat to Yugoslavia is an important factor in the situation. Many deadlines have been given to Yugoslavia but to no avail.

The *Gazette* comments in its editorial that so long as the West prevaricates, Belgrade is prepared to pursue its genocidal policies.

This is true. Adverse criticism will not worry it. The Serbs know well the hollowness of the NATO threats. It is also correct that NATO's inactivity is weakening the position of moderate Kosovars. This will further complicate the situation. The KLA is a force which cannot be ignored.

Circumstances are taking the Serbs and Kosovars to the brink of an all-out war which will have dangerous consequences for Europe.

Therefore, Europe should wake up and stop the onslaught.

As Tony Blair said in a recent article published in the *Gazette*, peace in Kosovo requires a long-lasting political solution acceptable to both sides.

But it is Milosevic who is not at all interested in peace.

If the Kosovo problem explodes this will be disastrous for Europe.

M. Maqdoom Mohiuddin
Khamis Mushayt

...lations with Europe depend on Ocalan's trial

...y and ...epend ...ndles ...bdul-

...d, the ...con-

...s crit-

we can give signals that we may engage in armed conflict with Greece."

A broader anti-Western mood, as yet unseen, could have an impact on April elections where secularist parties face a strong challenge from the Islam-based. It could also strengthen the currently weak nationalist parties.

Government sources said Turkey was pressing for closure of three Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) camps on Greek territory. It also wanted the arrest of PKK acti-

cused Greece of behaving as a "rogue". "It is Turkey that is being judged in the Ocalan case," Greek Defense Minister Akis Tsohatzopoulos said.

Public declarations of contrition, then, are unlikely from Athens before the trial. Turkey can only work on that premise, looking perhaps to Washington rather than Europe for support.

There is no strong Turkish lobby to match the Greek in Washington, but the United States has been outspoken in

said. "Or perhaps we have not been able to portray the matter properly. It's all of the (factors) put together, not just one."

Turkey must learn the art quickly, before Ocalan is tried over the deaths of some 29,000 people killed in the war between the separatist PKK and Turkish security forces.

Ankara refuses to allow official foreign observers, arguing this would undermine the independence of its judiciary, but insists the trial will be open. An unimpeachably fair trial is essential both to quell the southeastern conflict and quieten foreign critics. Greece to the fore

close ally which knows ip better than many

:ul Aziz, Second Deputy fense and Aviation and the misguided linister Rashed ısizing that Saudi re in line with those Tehran in matters of affairs and the re were no grounds for

ranian relations is not lopment but part of a

months. Saudi Arabia is not only strengthening its bilateral relations with others but also aims at cementing Arab solidarity and winning more outside support for all Arab and Islamic causes. In view of this policy, the UAE criticism is unjustified and unreasonable.

In fact, closer Saudi-Iranian relations are in the best interests of the region as well as of Arabs and Muslims in general. These ties will be helpful for the UAE rather than damaging to its interests. When Saudi Arabia has strong relations with Tehran, it will be in a better position to help settle disputes and coordinate the policies of the regional countries.

Prince Sultan said it was strange that anyone could

went on to say that the Kingdom follows a firm po based on strong religious faith and Pan-Arabism, it never wavers in its position toward Arab nations particularly the Gulf Cooperation Council and the UAE.

It is well known that Saudi policy is based on firı principles of justice and peace. The Kingdom has been a firm advocate of political stability in the Gu region and in other parts of the world as this enab nations to make economic progress and ensure a better standard of living for their people.

While differences of opinion are normal, even between the best of friends, the most appropriate to resolve them is through mutual contacts and dialogue. The UAE should revert to this conventior the GCC.



l is 'old'?



ne" or "advanced in age; ger young". Some help efinitions are, especially me's aim is to achieve on in the definition. The ry does tell one, though, d" happens to be a rather word in so far as English go. From "a chip off the ck," through "old be- me's years" and "old to know better," to such s "old enough to be ly's father," "old wives" d "teaching an old dog cks" there is a fairly pectrum of idioms to from. And, to take the f any rancor that one feeling due to advanc- there is always the idi- is gold" to fall back e dictionary also prof- advice to be aware of parison of the usage of ls "old", "aged", "eld- ncient" and "antique". ys the dictionary, has st use and can be ap- people, animals and seful things these dic- one always said! ord "antique" evokes erest. Collecting "an- has become the pre- bby especially of the riches. This is against the "old school", who be in possession of es in question through e. There is thus a mo

new found wealth.

This brings us to the very pertinent question: how does one discern items that deserve the appellation "antiques", rather than merely "old" or "ancient"? For a definition of what is "antique" describes an object, which has survived from the past and is, therefore, valuable today. This definition is hardly precise because one sees around oneself several objects that have regrettably survived from the past but can only be classed as "junk". Such objects have found their way into several so-called "antique shops", where unscrupulous dealers use them to make a pretty penny out of gullible antique hunters. In order to be considered an antique, therefore, an object should be not only old but also appealing to one"s taste and something of a rarity.

That question having been thrashed out hopefully to everyone"s satisfaction, let us now hark back to the res, if you will. How old does one have to be to consider oneself old? The answer is that it depends on the "liver". There is, of course, a pun on the word "liver". In order to live well one needs a healthy liver. In the absence of good health, all else is futile. "Liver" also refers to the individual in question. A person need not be "old" unless he or

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Two steps forward

Sir – There are only a few months until the turn-of-the-century when the new generation will look back and evaluate what has been done by individuals and groups. They will try to correct our mistakes, and that is the way it should be. But while they may think our time has passed, we still have time to do the best we can for the next generation, to try to make the next millennium better than the last.

Hashim Ibrahim Hashim
Jeddah

Conflict of loyalties

Sir – I would first like to refer to the World Cup Cricket Tournament at present in progress in England. When England and India were playing their last league match to decide which of them would enter the Super Six stage of the competition, the stadium was jam-packed with British nationals of Indian origin. They were chanting in favor of India and were overjoyed when India won. However, many British politicians and other people objected to the behavior of the British Indian spectators, contending that, since they were now British nationals, they should have supported the British team. Both were right in this case. The British politicians were right that the crowd should have supported the British team and the British Indian crowd was right since they were Indian born and have their roots in India.

The same principle can be applied in the case of Sonia Gandhi who is the present leader of the Indian Congress party and might become premier if the party wins the upcoming general election. When she withdrew her resignation as Congress leader, she declared that she was not in the race for premier, but it is taken for granted that she will be the premier if Congress wins. Sonia is an Italian-born woman.

She married Rajiv Gandhi and acquired Indian nationality almost 15 years after the marriage. Certainly, she is now an Indian and a member of the celebrated Nehru dynasty which ruled democratic India for more than forty years. No doubt she is attached to India and has adopted its culture but she still has Italian blood in her body. She has her roots in Italy and, of course, this cannot be changed. She will retain her loyalty to Italy and there should be no surprise if, in the future, she gives preference to Italian interests.

India, has now opened its market to foreign investors and many multinational corporations have come in. In view of this, it is likely that Sonia would give preference to Italian firms and ease the way for Italian multinational corporations. Even in the time of Rajiv, a contract for Delhi water sewage was awarded to an Italian firm. The notorious Italian businessman Quattorecchi made his way in India and become a close friend of Rajiv and Sonia.

He was involved in a scam but, before the court could issue a warrant, he fled the country. Rajiv had realized the motives of Quattorecchi and threw him out of his home. But after Rajiv's murder, he once again became close to Sonia, though he is now living in Malaysia. And this was only one Italian. What Sonia might do after becoming premier is a matter of great concern. Naturally, all her sympathies will be with the Italian firms.

It should be noted that the colonial powers entered Asian and African countries for trade but, in time, they were exploiting different communities

leaders should have been invited to the CV session, their reservations should have be heard and they should have been persuaded. I Sonia first staged the drama of her resignati and then her supporters demonstrated, resign and even burned themselves to death. All the things made Sonia withdraw her resignation a now she is back with no body to challenge l authority.

The people who claim that the Nehru dynas is destined to rule are wrong. It is an insult to o billion Indians and to the principle of democrac Is there not a single person of Indian origin India with the ability to rule? This means th even after half a century, we cannot give up o slavish mentality. Now we are entering the 21 century, we have a democratic character and w have fixed boundaries, so to support or prefer person of foreign origin is ridiculous. No doul the non-Congress governments and coalition have proved to be flop but it was Congress whic brought them all down.

Abu Yasa
Khamis Mushay

Toys for tots

Sir – It is easy for Pakistan's ambassador to the US to make irresponsible statements about his country's willingness to use any type of weapon, even nuclear, in a war against India. After all, the ambassador is safely out of the war zone. The sufferers will be the common people on both sides who have nothing to do with the present crisis. I doubt whether those who are always flexing their nuclear muscles even care for their own people. They must realize that any nuclear attack would guarantee a nuclear response from India. The ignorance behind the ambassador's absurd statement is apparent.

I really do not understand why Pakistan, which boasts every now and then that it is quite capable of teaching a lesson to India, has to opt for this nuclear threat. Now that they have become a nuclear power, Pakistan is acting like a toddler with a toy in its hand.

Thomas P. Andrade
Riyadh

Beyond the wickets

Sir – American Andre Agassi fought back from two sets down to beat Ukranian Andrei Medvedev in the French Open, becoming only the fifth man in history to win all four Grand Slam titles. It had been done by four other men - Donald Budge, Fred Perry, Roy Emerson and Rod Laver – but the feat is even more impressive when we examine a list of those who have not achieved this feat – John Newcombe, Ken Rosewall, Bjorn Borg, Stefan Edberg, Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe, Ivan Lendl and Pete Sampras. Congratulations, Andre.

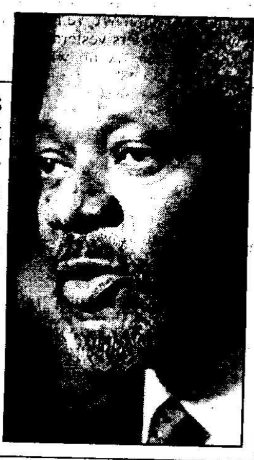
Another record was set by Steffi Graf, winning the women's title for her sixth time. Now she has twenty-two Grand Slam victories.

But perhaps the most impressive win was that of men's doubles champions, Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi who have become the first Indian pair to win a Grand Slam tournament. With Japan's Rikke Heera, Bhupathi won the French Open's mixed doubles title two years back. Leander Paes was a bronze medalist in the 1994 Olympic Games, becoming the first Indian to



...ainst time ...e in Kosovo

Kofi A. Annan
Secretary General



...e United Nations is ...mined to do its part ...eet the challenge – ...e all, so that all the Kosovar Albanians, including the ...)-year-old woman, ...hose anguish I will ...ver forget, can live ...again, in their own ...mes, on their own land, in safety.

...saw in those camps ... my profound out... ...at has been deliber... ...ted upon the people ... It renewed my con... ...t we must find a so... ...oon as possible – a ...at secures the safe ...return of this people ...nes, with their polit... ...man rights respect...

...y that passes with... ...s one more day of ... of innocents, one ...f civilian suffering, ...ay of hopelessness ... We are – all of us in ...ional community – ...gainst time. Every ... prolonged, every ...postponed, every ...eace delayed, only ... suffering of the ...anians.

...ational community ...s pursuit of a peace ...he full and speedy ... Kosovar Albani... ...omes in safety and dignity. How that peace is achieved is now the focus of intensive negotiations, involving the large Western governments and Russia (the G-8), the United Nations and all who seek peace with justice for the people of Kosovo.

Meanwhile, we in the United Nations are reinforcing our aid efforts across the board. We are expanding the scope and depth of our relief, we are improving the coordination of our assistance, and we are looking to the future and planning for the political stability and economic reconstruction of Kosovo and the entire region.

We are determined to be prepared, quickly and comprehensively, for the peace, because we know that the humanitarian crisis we face is at root a human rights tragedy. We know that we are confronting the humanitarian consequences of crimes against humanity.

The Kosovo crisis is a crucial test for the international community. There, to a degree unequalled in other conflicts around the world, immense efforts and great resources are being applied.

With the eyes of the world on us, it is imperative that we aid the uprooted and brutalized people of Kosovo now, and return them to their homes swiftly and safely.

This is the challenge that confronts us all. The United Nations is determined to do its part to meet this challenge – above all, so that all the Kosovar Albanians, including the 100-year-old woman, whose anguish I will never forget, can live once again, in their own homes, on their own land, in safety.

...ernational ...munity is ...ed in its ... of a peace ...llows the ...d speedy ...n of the ...sovar ...nians to ...homes in ...ty and ...nity.

...these hard working women. They pick and choose and make something out of the refuse of others."

Many interesting points emerged from the article. One is that all these women "from the African continent" have their own territory. Nor are they rummaging at random: they are seeking particular objects which can be sold for money with which they and their families can survive. One woman has been visiting the same dumpsters almost every day for the past four years and she only picks out cans, which she is later able to sell for recycling.

Moreover, these women keep their self-respect despite spending their lives amidst the trash. They are working hard for a living and do not beg. Your reporter noted that one woman went to the mosque at prayer time, leaving her collection and her children behind until her return. Children help in the work but their mothers keep an eye on them and "do not allow them to touch glass bottles and metal cans for fear that they may get cut".

Some of the women have seen better days. One said "she used to sell candies, toffees, chocolates, gums, toys, peanuts and potato chips in Balad" but was forced to give it up. So she turned to trash collection "because it did not require an investment and seemed relatively safe."

Some of the women look upon the dumpsters – which we prefer to view from a distance – as gold mines: "The more they dig into them, the more they add to their family income. Their investment is nothing but their sweat."

The garbage collecting seems to be well organized. Not only do the women have their own territory and look for particular articles but there is a system involved and there are places where the women can sell the proceeds of their day's delving.

Samir has taken the lid off a sub-culture of Jeddah to which most people prefer to turn a blind eye. He has done a service to society by enabling us to understand the lives of some of our fellow citizens whom we have preferred to ignore. Let us hear more about them. What is their history? Where do they live? What is the nature of their family and social life?

Gerald Thompson
Jeddah

Eyes wide open

Sir – I am writing in response to Abu Yasar's letter, "Secularism is secure" (*Saudi Gazette*, May 13). Does Yasar have his eyelids glued shut? Perhaps it is my imagination, but it seems he has promised someone that he will blame Pakistan for whatever happens in India. Next, I expect him to accuse Pakistan of bringing hot weather to India.

For instance, he accuses Pakistan of supporting a sick party like the BJP. Why would Pakistan support a party which has made them spend millions of dollars on an arms race?

Then he accuses Pakistan of initiating an attack on India in 1965. That is a complete lie. History shows that strong countries attack weak ones. Pakistan was not powerful enough to attack India first. India took the first step. The truth is always hard to swallow. India is still continuing this strategy of antagonizing Pakistan by jumping into Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, by throwing grenades and firing at civilians.

He also accuses Pakistan of destroying the peace in Kashmir, suggesting that they are sending terrorists into Kashmir. He is blind to the truth.

He should begin by looking up "terrorist" in a dictionary, and then he will learn who is supporting terrorists. I will make it easy for him. It is not the Pakistanis, but the 100,000 Indian soldiers, with early morning identity checks and the right to arrest anybody, that are terrorizing Kashmiris.

Hindus are so frightened of Muslims that they are thinking of forbidding the slaughter of cows and banning the use of amplified speakers in mosques, but they are afraid of the wrong people.

Scared Indeed! Take my advice Abu Yasar. Next time you want to see the world, keep both eyes open.

Hashim Hassan
Jeddah

Lanka journalist silenced

Sir – The famous writer and journalist Sri Lal Priyantha is being persecuted in Sri Lanka because he has spoken out about malpractice and corruption in the country. He has been arrested and accused in connection with an assassination over ten years ago.

Sri Lal Priyantha was recently kidnapped and assaulted by an unknown gang and then dumped in an alley in a critical condition. The reason for this would seem to be his revelations about corruption and malpractice in the police.

After he recovered from that ordeal he was arrested and imprisoned by the police in connection with the old assassination case. Now he is is in danger from underworld elements as well as the police. According to his lawyer, he is getting in-

...Chandrababu Naidu and the outlook for the future. The writer has done a great job in analyzing developments there.

In fact, there has been tremendous progress in the city of Hyderabad in a short period of time. All the credit must go to Naidu, who has taken a keen interest in all the developments there. He has started many schemes in order to solve the prevailing socio-economic problems of the middle class community such as those associated with the "smart" scheme, and he has tried hard to present Hyderabad as a business and information-technology city at a global level. Moreover, he is ignoring all considerations of caste as he goes about his work. He is regarded as the best chief minister of all the Indian states. It is obvious that if every chief minister could execute his responsibility toward the country in the same way as Babu all India would soon be enjoying prosperity. Such a thing is, in fact, possible. It is incumbent on the people to select the right candidates to lead them. In the coming elections they will have their opportunity to do this.

The state of Andhra Pradesh and all India could be in for a bright future.

Mohammed Z. Ansari
Dammam

New political climate

Sir – The six-year expulsion of three leaders from the Congress Party for questioning the suitability of Sonia Gandhi to be the party leader was expected. However, it once again demonstrates that there is no internal democracy in the Congress, that the 110-year-old party is still looking for a charismatic personality to lead it and that it hopes Sonia can fulfill this role. But this dependence on a single leader is highly ridiculous. The way that people went to Sonia to demonstrate their support and the CWC meeting expelling the three leaders have induced her once more to take on the stewardship of the party. However, I consider this to be a suicidal act on her part. It also confirms that this Italian-born lady is all set to become the prime minister of India.

Of the three leaders – who represent the three main religions of the country – only Sharad Pawar is a powerful personality. Sangma may have some influence in the north-eastern states but Tareq Anwar does not have strong support in his home state of Bihar. He is still regarded a protege of Sita Ram Kesari, who brought down the government of Deve Gowda because of a personality clash.

However, the formation of a new party by this trio will change the political atmosphere of India. It may attract seculars like Fernandes, Hegde and Mamta Banerjee to forge an alliance with it. The TDP has already declared its willingness to do so. The communists and other small regional parties may also join the alliance and it will boost the image of the Third Front which could become strong enough to challenge Congress and the BJP.

The BJP has made an issue of Sonia's nationality but, apart from this, it does not have any issue with which to go to the masses. It is claiming that it has done much for India and that the opposition parties have brought down the government for personal reasons, but such arguments will no longer fool the masses. The people know well how fragile the government was and that its survival for 13 months was itself a wonder. On the economic front, the BJP claims that it has done well. But the people cannot forget that under its rule onions were sold at Rs60 and salt at Rs60 while the price of petrol was increased so that the cost of all essential commodities automatically increased.

The BJP may have a feather in its cap for making India nuclear. However, that is not really to the BJP's credit. The real credit for the achievement goes to Nehru and the Indian scientists. The bus yatra, which was taken under the direction of America, did nothing to improve relations with Pakistan. Now Vajpayee is planning another stunt by going to Bangladesh in a bus. These things demonstrate that the BJP is trying to woo Muslim voters, but it is not going to succeed.

One of the results of the expulsion of the three leaders from the Congress Party will be the appearance of new political alliances.

Abu Yasar
Khamis Mushayt

Chewing the qat

Sir – Yemenis have a reputation for being hard workers, but lately the habit of chewing qat has reduced their drive. I commend Yemen's president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, for trying to put an end to qat abuse. By kicking the habit, he is setting a positive example for his people. Hopefully, his example will inspire others and get the country moving in the right direction.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

ainst time
e in Kosovo

Kofi A. Annan
Secretary General



e United Nations is
mined to do its part
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Kosovar Albanians,
including the
)-year-old woman,
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dignity. How that peace is achieved is now the focus of intensive negotiations, involving the large Western governments and Russia (the G-8), the United Nations and all who seek peace with justice for the people of Kosovo.

Meanwhile, we in the United Nations are reinforcing our aid efforts across the board. We are expanding the scope and depth of our relief, we are improving the coordination of our assistance, and we are looking to the future and planning for the political stability and economic reconstruction of Kosovo and the entire region.

We are determined to be prepared, quickly and comprehensively, for the peace, because we know that the humanitarian crisis we face is at root a human rights tragedy. We know that we are confronting the humanitarian consequences of crimes against humanity.

The Kosovo crisis is a crucial test for the international community. There, to a degree unequalled in other conflicts around the world, immense efforts and great resources are being applied.

With the eyes of the world on us, it is imperative that we aid the uprooted and brutalized people of Kosovo now, and return them to their homes swiftly and safely.

This is the challenge that confronts us all. The United Nations is determined to do its part to meet this challenge – above all, so that all the Kosovar Albanians, including the

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has been visiting the same dumpsters almost every day for the past four years and she only picks out cans, which she is later able to sell for recycling.

Moreover, these women keep their self-respect despite spending their lives amidst the trash. They are working hard for a living and do not beg. Your reporter noted that one woman went to the mosque at prayer time, leaving her collection and her children behind until her return. Children help in the work but their mothers keep an eye on them and "do not allow them to touch glass bottles and metal cans for fear that they may get cut".

Some of the women have seen better days. One said "she used to sell candies, toffees, chocolates, gums, toys, peanuts and potato chips in Balad" but was forced to give it up. So she turned to trash collection "because it did not require an investment and seemed relatively safe."

Some of the women look upon the dumpsters – which we prefer to view from a distance – as gold mines: "The more they dig into them, the more they add to their family income. Their investment is nothing but their sweat."

The garbage collecting seems to be well organized. Not only do the women have their own territory and look for particular articles but there is a system involved and there are places where the women can sell the proceeds of their day's delving.

Samir has taken the lid off a sub-culture of Jeddah to which most people prefer to turn a blind eye. He has done a service to society by enabling us to understand the lives of some of our fellow citizens whom we have preferred to ignore. Let us hear more about them. What is their history? Where do they live? What is the nature of their family and social life?

Gerald Thompson
Jeddah

Eyes wide open

Sir – I am writing in response to Abu Yasar's letter, "Secularism is secure" (*Saudi Gazette*, May 13). Does Yasar have his eyelids glued shut? Perhaps it is my imagination, but it seems he has promised someone that he will blame Pakistan for whatever happens in India. Next, I expect him to accuse Pakistan of bringing hot weather to India.

For instance, he accuses Pakistan of supporting a sick party like the BJP. Why would Pakistan support a party which has made them spend millions of dollars on an arms race?

Then he accuses Pakistan of initiating an attack on India in 1965. That is a complete lie. History shows that strong countries attack weak ones. Pakistan was not powerful enough to attack India first. India took the first step. The truth is always hard to swallow. India is still continuing this strategy of antagonizing Pakistan by jumping into Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, by throwing grenades and firing at civilians.

He also accuses Pakistan of destroying the peace in Kashmir, suggesting that they are sending terrorists into Kashmir. He is blind to the truth.

He should begin by looking up "terrorist" in a dictionary, and then he will learn who is supporting terrorists. I will make it easy for him. It is not the Pakistanis, but the 100,000 Indian soldiers, with early morning identity checks and the right to arrest anybody, that are terrorizing Kashmiris.

Hindus are so frightened of Muslims that they are thinking of forbidding the slaughter of cows and banning the use of amplified speakers in mosques, but they are afraid of the wrong people.

Scared Indeed! Take my advice Abu Yasar. Next time you want to see the world, keep both eyes open.

Hashim Hassan
Jeddah

Lanka journalist silenced

Sir – The famous writer and journalist Sri Lal Priyantha is being persecuted in Sri Lanka because he has spoken out about malpractice and corruption in the country. He has been arrested and accused in connection with an assassination over ten years ago.

Sri Lal Priyantha was recently kidnapped and assaulted by an unknown gang and then dumped in an alley in a critical condition. The reason for this would seem to be his revelations about corruption

vailing socio-economic problems of the mid class community such as those associated with "smart" scheme, and he has tried hard to pres Hyderabad as a business and informati technology city at a global level. Moreover, he ignoring all considerations of caste as he g about his work. He is regarded as the best ch minister of all the Indian states. It is obvious t if every chief minister could execute his respo sibility toward the country in the same way Babu all India would soon be enjoying prosperi Such a thing is, in fact, possible. It is incumbe on the people to select the right candidates to le them. In the coming elections they will have the opportunity to do this.

The state of Andhra Pradesh and all India cou be in for a bright future.

Mohammed Z. Ansa
Damma

New political climate

Sir – The six-year expulsion of three leaders fro the Congress Party for questioning the suitabili of Sonia Gandhi to be the party leader was ex pected. However, it once again demonstrates th there is no internal democracy in the Congres that the 110-year-old party is still looking for charismatic personality to lead it and that it hope Sonia can fulfill this role. But this dependence o a single leader is highly ridiculous. The way tha people went to Sonia to demonstrate their suppo and the CWC meeting expelling the three leader have induced her once more to take on the ste wardship of the party. However, I consider this t be a suicidal act on her part. It also confirms tha this Italian-born lady is all set to become th prime minister of India.

Of the three leaders – who represent the three main religions of the country – only Sharad Pawa is a powerful personality. Sangma may have some influence in the north-eastern states but Tareq Anwar does not have strong support in his home state of Bihar. He is still regarded a protege of Sita Ram Kesari, who brought down the government of Deve Gowda because of a personality clash.

However, the formation of a new party by this trio will change the political atmosphere of India. It may attract seculars like Fernandes, Hegde and Mamta Banerjee to forge an alliance with it. The TDP has already declared its willingness to do so. The communists and other small regional parties may also join the alliance and it will boost the image of the Third Front which could become strong enough to challenge Congress and the BJP.

The BJP has made an issue of Sonia's nationality but, apart from this, it does not have any issue with which to go to the masses. It is claiming that it has done much for India and that the opposition parties have brought down the government for personal reasons, but such arguments will no longer fool the masses. The people know well how fragile the government was and that its survival for 13 months was itself a wonder. On the economic front, the BJP claims that it has done well. But the people cannot forget that under its rule onions were sold at Rs60 and salt at Rs60 while the price of petrol was increased so that the cost of all essential commodities automatically increased.

The BJP may have a feather in its cap for making India nuclear. However, that is not really to the BJP's credit. The real credit for the achievement goes to Nehru and the Indian scientists. The bus yatra, which was taken under the direction of America, did nothing to improve relations with Pakistan. Now Vajpayee is planning another stunt by going to Bangladesh in a bus. These things demonstrate that the BJP is trying to woo Muslim voters, but it is not going to succeed.

One of the results of the expulsion of the three leaders from the Congress Party will be the appearance of new political alliances.

Abu Yasar
Khamis Mushayt

Chewing the qat

Sir – Yemenis have a reputation for being hard workers, but lately the habit of chewing qat has reduced their drive. I commend Yemen's president Ali Abdullah Saleh



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Again, it was strange how she became the chairperson of the Congress parliamentary caucus after the last polls. The party constitution had to be changed to accommodate her. She appointed the opposition leaders in both houses, balancing the popular Maharashtra leader Pawar with the bureaucrat-turned-politician Manmohan Singh. This was the time when a couple of Congress leaders began to see through the moves. They tried to initiate in the CWC a discussion on the role and contribution of Indians and Indians of foreign origin. None dared to pursue the matter lest Sonia Gandhi should be annoyed. It was dismissed as irrelevant.

Things became clear when she went to meet the president all by herself to put the Congress claim to form the government after the fall of the BJP-led coalition. She was the candidate. Arjun Singh was selling her as prime minister. The canvassing with the non-BJP

LETTERS

Letters for publication should include the writer's name, postal address and telephone number. They should be sent to: The Editor, Saudi Gazette, P. O. Box 5576, Jeddah - 21432. The e-mail address is 105652.1670@compuserve.com. The fax number is 6727621.
The Editor reserves the right to edit letters.

Trust yourself

Sir – There is a new form of recreation that is taking the world by storm. It seems that when people have a little too much energy, nothing to do, perhaps some pent up frustration, they get together in a gang and attack their local US embassy. In the past couple of months we have seen the people of Yugoslavia, China and now, the Philippines attacking US embassies, prompting little response from the host governments.

I realize that the people who are protesting have legitimate reasons for being angry, but there are better ways to express their frustration. Their anger is misdirected, and it seems that that is the way their governments want it. The people in Belgrade, Beijing and Manila can look to the West, and blame the US for their problems or they can look at themselves and their leaders. Well, nobody likes to look at themselves, and the leaders of those countries surely don't want the people looking at them. They couldn't stand up to the scrutiny.

What could be better than to suggest there is some hidden power, more powerful than the local, visible government, pulling all our strings. But I wonder why people are drawn in by conspiracy theories that seem to be running wild throughout the world. Belgrade tells its people that the Kosovar refugees they see on television are actors, paid six dollars a day by NATO to walk back and forth, in and out of Kosovo. A writer to this column suggests that the war in Yugoslavia was manufactured by a secret movement in the West that wants a Muslim-free Europe. These ideas are crazy, but people want to believe them. Why?

If there is something wrong with your life, don't look to the government for a solution. If there is something wrong with your country, get to work to make it better. Stop making a scapegoat of the US and take control of your life.

Chris Newman
Jeddah

Mind your own business

Sir – In A. Salam's letter, "Dream on" (*Saudi Gazette*, May 20), he suggests I use twisted logic, but I doubt he even understands what "logic" means. I had pointed out that India annexed Kashmir against the wishes of Kashmir. I provided solid proof but it was ignored because Indian's do not understand that it is only by holding a plebiscite that the people's will is expressed.

Compelling voters at gunpoint is not true democracy. But sensible logic cannot convince cynics like Salam and others like him who consider the Hindu ruler of Kashmir as impeccable, and the rulers of Hyderabad and Junagadh as leaders who can be ignored. Such a double standard cannot be defended.

There are some who are happy to have seen atrocities inflicted upon Muslims and Dalits during the last 52 years. Indeed, the wonderful record of human rights violations in India may be a source of pleasure and pride for Indians. But how can they justify poking their noses into the internal affairs of Pakistan? Pakistan has never interfered with the internal affairs of India, but the activities of RAW in Pakistan are an open secret.

Indians should stop worrying about Pa and its problems. Instead, they should about ever-increasing poverty, communal caste discrimination and the survival of t tional identify of Indian Muslims. In part they should worry about the suffering of miri Muslims, and not keep talking about jirs and Biharis.

Imran M
J

Paying the price

Sir – Yesterday, Arjun Singh spoke about a plans to assassinate former Congress pres Sonia Gandhi. In a veiled statement, he p the finger at the RSS.

In order to defeat the RSS, the RSS m given power. Once in power they will ruin institutions, educational syllabi, and the con legal and executive machinery. But then, must be must be. A minority cannot prev catastrophe if the majority insists on havi The fact of the matter is that Hindutva is o rise amongst Hindus. They want to lord ov Muslims. The relationship between Hindu Muslims in India today is that of victor and quished.

The RSS can do its utmost to hurt Muslim Islam in India, but in the bargain it will do arable damage to India itself. Perhaps the R so intoxicated by hate that it does not mind p such a high price.

Khwaja Rasheeduddin Fa
Je

Might not right

Sir – The world is in a terrible state, bese many diverse and complicated problems. everywhere we see force being used to tackl problems on the basis that "might is right" stead of using peaceful methods such as d macy, NATO and even the United Nations r to force to resolve difficulties. Such met solve nothing – they cause untold misery fo dinary people who only want peace and a b life – and they will certainly give rise to gr problems in the future.

Hashim Ibrahim F
Jed

Advanced citizenship

Sir – Indians proudly claim that they live in world's largest democracy, but what good is mocracy when the system is being manipul and perverted by corrupt politicians like Thackeray.

Before 1947 we were slaves to the British, after great sacrifice we gained our independe on August 15, 1947.

But now we have to wonder if all that ef was spent in vain. What have we gained by s stituting criminals for imperialists? It is time rupt politicians are punished for their actio Let's finally put an end to slavery and make mocracy in India mean something.

Ind
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Can ANC ever be ousted or

arab news

SAUDI ARABIA'S FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY

Published simultaneously from Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam

VOL. XXVI NO. 189 MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2001 — RABIULAWWAL 12, 1422 A.H. 20 PAGES 2 RIYALS



— *"He pointed out that France was exporting what was left of its poultry to Saudi Arabia after first distributing it among different countries including Russia, East European and African States."*

This affirmation is totally false, and defamatory. Saudi Arabia is France's first customer in the world for poultry products and France does not export "what is left" of its poultry to Saudi Arabia but considers and treats its Saudi customers as they deserve, with all the respect and attention due to customers.

— *"Faqeeh also alleged that the chicken products exported to the Kingdom by some European and American countries did not comply with the country's quality standards."*

This allegation is totally untrue and slanders French products and bodies in charge of inspecting and controlling imported food products in Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of Commerce and the Customs services. Should any of the French poultry products available on the Saudi market not have complied with the SASO standards or any Saudi regulation, the Department of Customs would have immediately blocked them.

French poultry producers take extreme caution of the health of consumers, in Europe as well as abroad.

— *"The level of water content in imported chicken from France and Brazil is 13 percent against the permitted level of five percent."*

This allegation is of course totally false and defamatory. French chicken exported to Saudi Arabia fully complies with all SASO requirements, including water content less than 5 percent. No shipment has ever been blocked by Saudi Customs for excessive water content.

— *"France, Brazil and other countries produce special meat for export to the Middle East and these products differ from what they export to EU countries."*

It is true that the chicken exported to the Middle East is different from the one exported to EU countries: first, the chicken exported to the Middle East is halal, to comply with the religious beliefs of Saudi customers and specifications of the Saudi authorities; and second, Saudi market requires rather smaller chicken (average weight: 900-1000g) than those consumed in Europe. But in no way does the quality of the product differ from one destination to another.

Counting on the well-known and respected reputation of your newspaper, I remain,

Herve Piquet
French Trade Commissioner
Riyadh

War and suicide

This refers to the letter on Ethiopia (May 31). Are those who call the patriotic duty of fighting for one's country "suicidal" really Ethiopians or Eritreans? Dear brothers, those who went to the battlefield and were killed by the enemy were "heroes of victory" and they was not confined to a specific tribe as you mention.

They belonged to all tribes be it from Tigray or any other tribe and it was on their own will, because we have only one country and it is a matter of patriotism, and they really keep our heads. They deserve our appreciation and respect.

Ahmed O.M
Jeddah

A little civility

I couldn't agree more with Khaled Al-Maeena's article (June 1). I and other Westerners in the Kingdom find it amazing how little respect many people here, not all, have for other people and the environment. Every time I find myself in a situation where queuing is involved there is always someone who thinks he has the right to push in.

I live in the beautiful area of Abha; or rather it would be beautiful if all the scenic areas weren't covered in rubbish. Why can't people take there rubbish home with them? It seems to be yet another case of disrespect for other people and the beauty around them.

I don't want to generalize and I know that many people in my country, Britain, can be rude and ignorant too; but after living in England, Spain and Japan I have never seen such an attitude as I have seen here. Who is responsible? The parents? The schools? Authorities? A combination of all three? Any answers or even theories from you would be welcome.

Mark Batman
Abha

Shrewd game indeed!

Your editorial (A shrewd game — May 26) presented the true picture of the game the Indian government is playing. If the Indian government were sincere it should have announced the following:

a — An immediate withdrawal of Indian troops from Kashmir;

b — Willingness to respect various UN resolutions on the Kashmir dispute;

c — A referendum in Kashmir, under neutral observers, to decide whether the Kashmiris want to live under Indian rule or to merge with Pakistan.

Muhammad Ali
Jeddah

Summer vacation

It is now the time for summer with all universities and schools closed. Students are free from all worries and activities connected with their studies. But the spare time should be utilized to learn something new, or to add to what they already know. There are many opportunities available in various fields.

Some will be interested in sports, some in foreign languages, computers and Internet. Make use of the summer vacation to better your prospects.

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

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AL AKHBAR 11 JANUARY 2001

رئيس الوزراء يرد..
على مقال انضباط القرارات

بقلم: جلال دويدار

... تناول أى قضية من قضايا العمل الوطنى احرص على أن ... الصالح العام وصالح جماهير الشعب هو الدافع الأول ... بعيدا عن التصيد والرغبة فى نشر الاحساس بالاحباط ... المعالجة الايجابية البناءة على التجاوب مع ... وما يدور فيه من شائعات قد يكون بعضها صحيحا أو ...

... هذا المنطلق لابد أن تثار القضايا والخروج من نطاق ... والأحاديث الجانبية الى العلن من أجل الرد عليها ... التى تسمح بتوضيح الصورة وبما يساهم فى اشاعة ... المصداقية والثقة.

... مساعدة فى الخروج من هذا الوضع الذى يضيف مزيدا من ... على المشاكل الاقتصادية والتى هى من أسباب الركود ... لابد من توضيح الحقائق والمعلومات ... باعتبارها أمرا مسلما يجب أن يعرفه ويفهمه المواطن ... والكثير ممن تهمهم هذه القضايا.

... هذا الاطار الايجابى اسعدنى جدا سرعة الرد الذى ... من الدكتور عاطف عبيد رئيس الوزراء الذى يحاول تعويم ... العمل الاقتصادى الوطنى التى افتقدت مقاومتها لأمواج ... من العاصفين.

... احترامى لما قاله حول مشكلة المقاولون العرب فاننى أقول ... أن علوم الادارة لا تعنى حرمان الخبراء المهندسين ... من المشاركة فى ادارة شركتهم والمشاركة بالرأى فيما ... فى حل مشاكلها.

... أضيف إلى ذلك أن لا أحد يمكن أن يؤيد الخطأ فى الادارة ... بهمنى أن أقول بعد قراءتى للرد اننى غير سعيد ... المهندس اسماعيل عثمان رئيس المقاولون العرب الذى اعلن ... بعملية التصحيح فى الشركة العملاقة بما يعنى موافقته ... الاتهام التى تم الاستناد اليها فى اتخاذ قرار التصحيح.

... أخرى أقول أن نشر رد رئيس مجلس الوزراء هو حق ... كما انه انحياز للقارىء الذى من واجبنا أن ننقل ... دعما للمصداقية التى من المفروض أن تكون هدفنا ... وفيما يلى نص الرد:

الفاضل الأستاذ / جلال دويدار

اختتام اعمال اللجنة العليا بين مصر والسعودية:

الالتزام الكامل بدعم الشعب الفلسطينى سياسيا وماديا

قضية القدس عربية وإسلامية غير قابلة للمساومة

زيادة التبادل التجارى وتيسير تدفق السلع والخدمات بين البلدين

الرياض - أ ف ب

أكدت مصر والسعودية التزامهما الكامل بدعم الشعب الفلسطينى سياسيا وماديا وفقا لقرارات القمة العربية الطارئة بالقاهرة. جاء ذلك فى بيان صادر عن الدولتين فى ختام أعمال اللجنة العليا المشتركة بين البلدين برئاسة عمرو موسى وزير الخارجية والأمير سعود الفيصل وزير الخارجية السعودى. وقال البيان ان الدولتين تسعيان الى تسوية سلمية تعيد الحقوق المشروعة للشعب الفلسطينى.

وأكد الجانبان عروبة القدس وانها قضية مصيرية عربية وإسلامية غير قابلة للمساومة وأكد البلدان ضرورة اتخاذ الخطوات اللازمة لتطوير العلاقات الاقتصادية بينهما وقال البيان ان المرحلة القادمة ستشهد زيادة فى التبادل التجارى وتيسير تدفق السلع والخدمات بين الجانبين. وأكد الجانبان على أهمية تكثيف التعاون فى مجال القطاع الخاص وانشاء مكتبين لخدمة رجال الأعمال.

وأعلن عمرو موسى وزير الخارجية فى مؤتمر صحفى مشترك عقده مع الأمير سعود الفيصل عقب اختتام أعمال اللجنة العليا المشتركة ان البلدين يسعيان للتكامل الاقتصادى. كان الوزير السعودى قد أعرب عن أسفه فى كلمته ببداية أعمال اللجنة العليا المشتركة لتراجع حجم التبادل التجارى بين البلدين مشيرا الى ان حجم التبادل بلغ ٢ مليار و١٩٠ مليون ريال فقط بانخفاض بلغ ١/٣ مليار ريال.

وقال الوزير السعودى تلك الغاء الشق التجارى من الاتفاق الثنائى الذى كان معمولا به فى السابق.

«تفاصيل أخرى ص ٩»



عمرو موسى وزير الخارجية والأمير سعود الفيصل وزير الخارجية السعودى يرأسان اجتماع اللجنة المصرية - السعودية المشتركة بالرياض

الخبرة المصرية لانشاء مترو انفاق فى مدينتى دمشق وحلب بسوريا

تأجيل زيارة روس.. وعرفات يجتمع سرا مع شاحاك

استئناف الدوريات الأمنية المشتركة بين اسرائيل والفلسطينيين

ترشيد مجانية التعليم الثانوى

اشفقت على الدكتور عاطف عبيد رئيس مجلس الوزراء، وهو يعلن عن حاجته لملايين الجنيهات لبناء مدارس جديدة ولمرتبات المعلمين ثم لتحسين حال المعلم او على من ذلك شيء، ولكنني استشاط غيظا عندما سمعت الارقام التى تنفقها الحكومة على طبع الكتب المدرسية التى توزع على الطلاب بالمجان بسبب غيظى ان اولادنا جميعا يتركون هذه الكتب ويشترون الكتب الخارجية ويدفعون فيها اموالا طائلة وليس هذا لان كتب الوزارة رديئة - لا سمح الله وانما هى عادة سيئة من عاداتنا التعليمية وهى «الكتب المفروضة الثمن اكثر فائدة من الكتب التى لا تدفع فيها شيئا» والدليل على ذلك ان الوزارة عندما اعلنت عن تأليف كتبها فى مسابقة وتقدم لها بعض اصحاب الكتب الخارجية فازت كتبهم وعندما وزعت على الطلاب مجانا تركوها واشتروا على الكتب الخارجية على الرغم من ان مؤلف كتاب الوزارة والكتاب الخارجى شخص واحد وهكذا مجموعات التقوية المجانية فاشلة وذات المصروفات ناجحة. لذلك اقترح على الحكومة ان تعلن بجرأة وشجاعة ان مجانية التعليم الثانوى الذى يصعد تطويره الآن هى «مدرسة ومعلم ومنهج» فقط وعلى الطالب ان يشترى ما يحبه من كتب. وليست الفكرة غريبة لانها مطبقة فى مجانية التعليم الجامعى ويكفى الدولة ما تنفقه على كتب المرحلتين الابتدائية والاعدادية.

حافظ جلال
خبير فى التعليم

صندوقا الاقصى والانتفاضة

اسفرت القمة العربية «الرؤساء» وملوك الدول العربية، التى انعقدت مؤخرا فى القاهرة، عن انشاء صندوقين، احدهما للاقصى والآخر للانتفاضة، لدعم القضية الفلسطينية ماليا ومعنويا، وتخفيف العبء، وتقديم العون لهم، وكل ما قد يواجهونه من جرائم قوات الاحتلال الاسرائيلى، منذ اكثر من نصف قرن حتى الآن. وان ما قد حدث من توقف لعملية السلام فى الشرق الاوسط، والتى كانت تسير بخطى بطيئة جدا، وان الذى حدث من تدهور الوضع الحالى من تجميد لعملية السلام وربما قد تنجم عنه من خطورة شديدة من تفجر الوضع المتأزم بين الجانبين الفلسطينى والاسرائيلى، ومن تلك الممارسات القمعية لقوات الاحتلال الاسرائيلى ضد الشعب الفلسطينى الاعزل من السلاح. وانه بدون شك فقد ظهر اطفال الانتفاضة بطولة منقطعة النظير، حيث لم يجدوا غير الحجارة فى مواجهة ومقاومة كل تلك الاسلحة الحديثة والمتطورة، التى يستخدمها جنود الاحتلال فى تصفية الشعب الفلسطينى، بقتلهم النساء والاطفال والشيوخ، وعتكهم للاعراض والحرمات والمقدسات، وسال من الدماء ما سال على ارض الديانات والرسالات ومهد الانبياء. ان استخدام اسرائيل للقوة التعسفية فى محاولة لقمع هذه الانتفاضة المقدسة، والتى لم تستطع احدث الاسلحة من الجانب الاسرائيلى ان تخمدها، وانما قد زادتها اشتعالا. وفجرت الموقف الحالى فى الارض المحتلة والشرق الاوسط بكامله، وهذا هو ما اسفر عن هذا التعاطف الشديد، والتضامن العربى القوى مع الشعب الفلسطينى، ومؤازرة كل الدول العربية لدعم صموده وحصوله على حقه المشروع فى اقامة دولته المستقلة، وعاصمتها القدس الشريف. ومما تقدم فان اقل ما يمكن ان يقدمه المواطن العربى ان يدعم هذين الصندوقين والذى يجب دراسة امكانية وضع هذه الصناديق فى مواقع يمكن ملاحظتها بسهولة ويسر، والتى سوف يكون افضلها بلا شك فى المساجد المنتشرة فى كل مكان، والمصالح الحكومية والمنشآت التعليمية والاكاديمية ومدارس ومعاهد وجامعات، وكل تلك الجهات التى من الممكن ان تدعم الانتفاضة بالارض المحتلة، وتقدم العون والمساعدة للشعب الفلسطينى على اكمل وجه، حتى يحصل على جميع حقوقه المغتصبة
والله المستعان

هاشم ابراهيم
ص.ب ١٢٣ الملك الصالح ١١٥٥٩

قصة الى قلبك

د. ناصر الغندور: لا وقت للضياع

الفقر هو القاسم المشترك الاعظم للبسطاء والمعوزين، فالفاقة تصيبهم احيانا، وتستغرق شطرا كبيرا من حياتهم. اما الامراض وخصوصا المستعصية منها، فانها تأخذهم احيانا الى حافة الهاوية. وصدق سيدنا على بن ابى طالب حين قال: «لوكان الفقر رجلا لقتلته».

عشرة طويلة تحت السنوات العشر تحملتها رضا ام محمد على السراء والضراء مع شريك العمر. انجبت خلالها «اطفال من البنين والبنات». وفجأة وبدون اية مقدمات طريحا الزوج فى قارعة الطريق دون اى سبب مقنع، او حتى اى توضيح لما فعل، لم تر المسكينة مصدرا حنونا سوى شقيقتها التى تعمل بوابة باحدى العمارات لتعيش معها هى واطفالها فى حجرة تحت بئر السلم. ولان الخير مازال فى قلوب الناس المخلصين فقد اشفق اصحاب احدى العمارات لتعمل بوابة عندهم لتجد لها مأوى وتوزق مما يعطيه لها السكان، ومضت بها سنوات العمر قانعة راضية برزقها الحلال حتى وصلت الخمسين من عمرها، فجأة وبدون اية مقدمات استيقظت رضا من نومها لتجد لسانها لا يتحرك. حاولت الكلام ولكن هيهات ان يخرج صوتها من بين شفتيها. حملتها شقيقتها الاقرب فالاقرب بجوارهم. بعد الكشف الدقيق عليها، شخص الطبيب مشفقا عليها. لم تنس ما قاله بعيدا عنها لتخبرها بالكارثة. ان شقيقتها اصيبت بجلطة فى المخ ولابد من دخولها لاحد المستشفيات. واسقط فى يد الاخت التى لا تملك الا قوت يومها يوما بيوم فمن اين لها ان تدخلها مستشفى او تشترى لها الدواء الذى سيتكرر شهريا. تقدم احد اهل الخير من السكان واشترى لها الروشتة الاولى انقاذا لها من تدهور الحالة. ولكن الطبيب اكد ضرورة دخولها احد المستشفيات لتكون تحت رعاية مكثفة وعمل كل ما يلزمها من تحاليل

الاحزاب السياسية

الاحزاب السياسية المفروض انها مدارس سياسية كل منها يقوم بتدريس السياسة حسب معتقداته وبرنامجه واعضاء هذه الاحزاب يدرسون مشاكل المجتمع الداخلية والخارجية ويضعون تصورا لحل هذه المشاكل كلا وفقا لبياناته والمفروض ان كل حزب له مؤيدين يكون باعضائه داخل المجالس النيابية «شعب وشورى» والمجالس الشعبية وتختلف نسب التمثيل باختلاف شعبية كل حزب هذا هو المفروض اما الواقع فى مصر يختلف عن المفروض فعندنا خمسة عشر حزبا سياسيا بعض هذه الاحزاب لا احد يعرف اسمه والبعض سلك نشاط الحج والعمرة وقراءة الطالع وترك العمل السياسى والغالبية ليس لها احتكاك بالجمهور ولا تشارك باى شكل فى اثراء الحياة السياسية.

ونحن نقترح شرطا هاما جدا لاستمرار اى حزب سياسى فى مصر وهو ان يكون له تمثيل باى عدد داخل المجالس النيابية والشعبية اما الحزب الذى يعجز عن هذا التمثيل فيجب تجميد نشاطه حتى لا يحسب على المجتمع حزبا سياسيا وهو ابعد ما يكون عن هذا الوصف.

محمد المفتحجى
القناطر الخيرية

الى أم البيئة

امام المعهد الدينى الابتدائى بمعهد صهرجت الكبرى ارض فضاء اصبحت مرتعا للاوبئة والامراض. نناشد المسئولين من اجل الحفاظ على صحة فلذات اكبادنا الصغار من التعرض للامراض حيث اننا نعيش فى عصر ام البيئة الدكتورة نادية مكرم عبيد.

شيخ المعهد محمد حسن شعبان
فمر الدعموس
جمال العنانى

كبار السن والتأمين الصحى

اعانى من مرض بالعظام واحمل بطاقة علاج رقم ٢٠١٨٧٣ تأمين صحى عيادة القبة. ذهبت ايام ٩، ١٢، ١٢

حكاية انسانية

هل يستجيب الاب الحنون وزير الصحة لرجاء شاب فى ان يجد له حلا. فهذا شاب حرمه القدر من ان يعيش فاى شاب فى سنه حيث انه قد اصيب وانما فى سن العاشرة بالتليف فى العضلات وسمعه ضعيفة وعندما كنت اكبر كان هذا المرض اللعين يكبر معى وقاومت وعاندت المرض حتى حصلت على الشهادة الابتدائية ثم الشهادة الاعدادية والتعلم وصلت لمرحلة لم اتمكن معها مواصلة التعليم على يدى وقدمى ومثل والدى كل ما يستطيع

احمد محمد عبدالحميد
مرزوق زهران
ومقيم فى ٣١ ش الجمهورية
ارض الشفة - الزاوية الحمراء

إلى وز...

حيث اننا نقيم بمحافظة مطروح ... بالتربية والتعليم وفوجئنا بصدور ... التنفيذى رقم ١٣١٩ و ١٣٢٠ ... ٢٢/١٠/٢٠٠٠ بنقلنا من محافظة ... الى محافظتى البحيرة وكفر الشيخ ... مبرر علما باننا لم نتقدم باى طلب ... المحافظة وتقاريرنا السنوية ممتازة ... علينا اى جزاءات طول فترة عملنا ... القرار لم نجد اى تفسير سوى ... اسرنا واولادنا بعد ان تركنا الاهل ... النيل طلبا الحياة هادئة فى مطروح ... وسدا للعجز فى المحافظة رجاء ... اللواء سمير يوسف اصدر قرار ... ٢٨/١١/٢٠٠٠ بوقف تنفيذ قرار ...

خدما...

نحن اهالى قرية قرموط صهيرة - التابعة لمركز ابو حماد - محافظة الشرقية لم تلق اى مساع فى مجال اللحاق بخدمات التليفون الهاتفى حيث انه منذ عام ١٩٩٤ تقريبا دخلت الى المنازل خطوط التليفون بما يقرب الى ٣٠٠ مشترك وعند تلك اللحظة بلغ عدد المشتركين بالقرية الى ما يقرب من ١٠٠٠ مشترك و١٢٠٠ مشترك بالقرى والعزب المجاورة لها رغم فى

طريق يخدم فردا واحدا

اهالى قرية ابوبكرى - الكفر البحرى - مركز قلين - محافظة كفر الشيخ يشكون من ان الخطة العاجلة لقرية الكفر البحرى مرصود لها مبلغ (تسعين الف جنيه) لرصف لطريق ترعة السماحات الجانب الشرقى ولا يخدم هذا الطريق سوى فرد واحد فقط علما بان الوحدة المحلية اعطت خطابا بان الطريق الخاص بقريتنا هو الاحق بالرصف الذى يخدم ثلاث بلاد هى كفر المشايخ والمنشأة الكبرى والكفر البحرى اكثر من عشرة الاف نسمة واكثر من الف فدان ارض زراعية والاسف طوله لا يتعدى ٢٨٠ مترا فقط. نرفع صوتنا الى محافظ كفر الشيخ ونطالب منه تشكيل لجنة من الوزارة والمحافظة للمعاينة على الطبيعة اى الطرق احق بالرصف طريق يخدم فردا واحدا ام طريق يخدم ثلاثة بلاد

حسين مصطفى

اهالى القرية



إلى وزير الاتصالات



احمد نظيف

نعانى نحن سكان احياء الورديان والقباري بالاسكندرية من مشكلة عدم وجود خطوط تليفونية فى سنترال المكس الذى نتبعه ومشكلتى التى اعانيها اكبر دليل على ذلك فانا بالفعل لدى خط تليفون رقم ٤٤٣٤٧٨٠ وكان يعمل بكفاءة وعندما قمت بتغيير محل اقامتى فى يناير الماضى الى عنوانى الحالى ذهبت الى سنترال المكس لنقل الخط فلم الق الا ابوابا مغلقة والذى فهمته من موظفى السنترال انه لا توجد خطوط خالية لاعادة تشغيل الخط مع العلم ان محل اقامتى السابق والحالى يقعان فى دائرة سنترال المكس واقوم بسداد رسوم الخط رغم انه لا يعمل فهل ينظر السيد / وزير الاتصالات نظرة عطف الى سنترال المكس لحل تلك المشكلة والقضاء على قوائم انتظار تركيب خطوط جديدة

صبرية عبدالرحمن بخيت
مساكن عثمان بالقراس - بلوك (١١) مدخل (٣) شقة (٩) الاسكندرية

شكرا لردكم • شكرا لردكم

● ردا على ما نشر بتاريخ ٨/١٢/٢٠٠٠ تحت عنوان (شىء مثير للعجب فى سوهاج) والذى يتضمن الشكوى من عدم احلال الجناح الشهالك بمدرسة عيسى الاعدادية (٢٦٠١٥٤٣) الصادر له قرار ازالة بقول مدير هيئة الابنية

تخصيص ارض لانشاء مدرسة جديدة للقضاء على مشكلة الفترة الثانية بالمدرسة المذكورة.

والهيئة تشكر لجريدتكم اهتمامها الدائم بمثل هذه الموضوعات التى تجد منا كل عناية واهتمام لما فيه ...

السيد / وكيل ... عام المحافظة ... المدرسة طبقا ... (٢٠٠٠) لسنة ...

● ايضا ... ٨/١٢/٢٠٠٠ ...

arab news

A daily international newspaper **published by**
Saudi Research & Publishing Company

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HISHAM AND MUHAMMAD ALI HAFIZ

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: SR900 (U.S. $241)
AIRMAIL POSTAGE INCLUDED
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Printed at Al-Madina Printing and Publishing Co. Jeddah

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Minister Mustafa Akinci marched out of a ceremony in protest during a speech by the Turkish commander of the security forces, Brig. Gen. Ali Nihat Ozeyranli had publicly dismissed Akinci's proposal that the police and fire brigade be transferred

breaking our strong bonds with Turkey," said the "Resistance Fighters", guerrillas from pre-partition days. One Turkish daily, defending the army, said Ankara had "spoon-fed" economically weak north Cyprus for 26 years. Akinci would argue that if

Khatami's German visit

By Douglas Busvine

BERLIN — Iranian President Muhammad Khatami has made shrewd use of the platform created by his trip to Germany to state his case for democracy and reconciliation with the West. But, analysts said yesterday, the real battle for reform will be fought at home as the moderate president seeks to outmaneuver an isolationist elite that may have gained the upper hand in recent months.

"This visit was meant to seek help from abroad for reforms at home but it alone will not decide the power struggle," said Frank Umbach, an analyst at the German Foreign Policy Society. Former Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said that the visit would boost Khatami, who won an overwhelming democratic mandate when he was elected in 1997. "The invitation strengthens the hand of reformers in Iran," Genscher wrote in a newspaper commentary.

Andreas Rieck, an Iran specialist at the German Institute for Middle East Studies in Hamburg, described Khatami's three-day state visit — the first by an Iranian leader to Germany in 33 years — as a "great success". "It shows that the years of crisis between Germany and Iran are over," Rieck told Reuters. As well as presenting Iran as a "stable country, determined to make progress and cooperate", Khatami took the first steps toward reviving German trade and investment in Iran, which have slumped to their lowest levels in 20 years.

But, perhaps more importantly, the 57-year-old leader used his visit to the Western power to appeal to another, asking the United States to revive relations broken off over the siege of its embassy in Tehran during the 1979 Islamic revolution. Khatami appealed to Washington to take the next step after tentative overtures for warmer ties earlier this year.

Harking back to a speech in March in which Secretary of State Madeleine Albright expressed Washington's regret for supporting Baghdad during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, he urged the Clinton administration to issue an

Camp David

Will the three-way summit at Camp David result in anything positive? The chances are not rated high even by optimists. However, the bottom line is that the entire peace process will run the risk of unraveling if final-status negotiations, long overdue, are not pursued with vigor until they produce a solution.

The political crisis in Israel adds to the complications of an already complex situation, reducing the slim chances of success. Going by Israel's history of negotiations, which always manages to have a political crisis before every summit, it will be Yasser Arafat again who will have to make all concessions. What will enable Arafat to stand firm and refuse to give in will the unstinted support of Arab and Muslim peoples. They should declare that support unequivocally now and make it clearly known to President Clinton that they will stand committed to it in the coming days.

Now, all are waiting to see if an end is near to the most explosive legacy of the last century. Let's hope it is.

Hashim Ibrahim
Jeddah

Expat bashing

Abdullah Al-Jifri, in his "Expats have tainted our country" (July 3) seemed intent on bashing expatriates. I don't know how long he has been in Saudi Arabia. I can't believe he is a real Saudi; they wouldn't speak the way he did.

If the actions of a few are to be generalized and taken as the standard of a community's behavior, let's look at some examples: I know sponsors who turn off the AC in their expatriate servants' quarters in the hottest summer as though they were not human



beings. One shouldn't treat a dog like that. As for the essential services that depend exclusively on expatriates, let's take drinking water. Who brings it? I've never seen Saudization in water trucks. Has Al-Jifri?

As for the harassment of women, does Al-Jifri know who tries to harass me whenever I'm out? No, not the expatriates who show utmost respect for females; but Saudis who don't have anything better to do, or whose parents have not taught them that harassing women is "haram". If such things were to happen in my country, the face of these men would get slapped.

Al-Jifri should look around and stop bashing expatriates for whatever reason he thinks they shouldn't be here — or then, maybe, he is himself a "privileged" expat from an accepted country.

Bessie M. Campbell
Jeddah

Philippine movies

The debate in the Philippines over who is responsible for the increasing number of pornographic films doesn't seem to be abating. Producers, actors, actresses, MTRCB, government society — all have been blamed.

Though all these have to take a share of the blame, most of it should go to the government. It is the institution that has the responsibility and power to enact and implement laws against pornography. The law should punish all those who violate the rules.



arab news

SAUDI ARABIA'S FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY

Published simultaneously from Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam

VOL. XXVI NO. 61 SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2001 — DUL QAADA 2, 1421 A.H. 20 PAGES 2 RIYALS

Letters to the Editor

Afghan sanctions

Will the UN sanctions against Afghanistan serve any purpose?

History is witness that Afghans cannot be not subjugated. No one can conquer them, and no one can buy them. The British tried and gave up; the Russians tried and the mighty empire had a great fall. Now it is America's turn to bite the rock. Can you dictate to a country that has zero debts and does not beg anyone for aid or loan?

The United States says Afghanistan is the hotbed of international terrorism. Russia fears spread of Islamic fundamentalism through its borders. Terrorism and fundamentalism are devil's buzz words and do not qualify to describe the down-to-earth simple Afghans. Will the Security Council reconsider its unrealistic decision to impose inhuman sanctions on poor innocent Afghans?

Mohsin Meer
Abqaiq

Israeli lobby

I am not sure if the writer of the Arab View column in his article "Myth about Israeli lobby" (Jan. 21) was defending the US or the Israelis. However, I would like to say that the influence the Jews have on America and American policies is not a myth. It is a fact that cannot be denied. The question is: how much is that influence? And the answer is, too much. A small Jewish minority is controlling a large majority. Incidentally, Kahil's cartoon on the same page says a lot about this fact-myth story.

F. Hussain
Riyadh

Armenian 'genocide'

The letter from Don R. Leask (Jan. 23) was another example of prejudiced hatred against Turks. It showed an ignorance of history.

No Armenian genocide was carried out by the Ottomans. During the war in early 1900s, Armenians, though living peacefully under the Ottoman Empire, sided with Russians and attacked Turks. As a consequence, they were transferred away from the front line by Ottomans and suffered a loss of approximately 300,000 lives which can be counted as war-time casualties. The loss of the Ottomans in the same period was much higher.

On the other hand, it is very difficult to understand why the Western world is trying to teach only one version of history, 85 years after the date of the so-called genocide. Why is only one example which is debated by scholars being picked, instead of the many examples of inhumanity that are agreed by all? To count only two among many such cases: why are not the murder and starvation of Ukrainians by Stalin or the Serbian death camps in Bosnia being raised at all?

Why are the Turks being singled out for condemnation for something they didn't do, when those whose guilt is agreed upon by all go unblamed? If justice is to be served and man's inhumanity to man accounted for, priority should be given to the sufferings of the Turks because of Armenian attacks, not the other way round.

The only reason why some Western countries are competing with each other to condemn Turks for a genocide which never took place is to get the votes of the Armenians in their countries. Everybody with common sense should agree that historical events should be sorted out by historians, not politicians.

Bulent Gungor
Riyadh

Expatriate families

The news that the Passports Department is considering scrapping the rule that requires expatriates to pay a fee for bringing in their spouses to live with them in the Kingdom (report, Jan. 25) is very welcome.

The change will not only make expatriates happy but will also be to the benefit of the Kingdom because the expatriates staying here with their families spend a big portion of their earnings here. On the other hand, if their families are in their home country, they spend a very little portion of their salary in the Kingdom and send maximum remittance to their country.

Nadeem Younus Pathan
Jubail

Different cultures

In the past week, power was transferred in America, Africa and Asia. George W. Bush took over from Bill Clinton, Joseph Estrada was succeeded by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and Laurent Kabila's place was taken by Joseph Kabila.

These three cases need to be studied more closely to see the big difference between countries on three different continents, each representing a different culture and political system. The manner in which power was transferred, and the way the leaders reached their top level position, and moved out, represent a study in contrast.

In the first case, the one leaving the office shook the hands of the one replacing him; in the second, the incumbent was accused of crime and driven out; and in the third, the holder of the office was killed. The three cases show a clear picture to the world of what sort of persons they were and what kind of country they are. It also showed what sort of relations they would have with others.

Hashim Ibrahim
Jeddah

Defenders of a crook

Now that Joseph Estrada is finally ousted, we must expect his die-hard supporters to show signs of despair. so, it is natural for an Estrada loyalist like Miriam Defensor-Santiago to feel emotionally devastated by the result of People Power 2. Santiago is questioning the constitutionality of president Arroyo's assumption of office.

Miriam used to vow to eradicate graft and corruption during election campaigns; but her anti-graft principles dramatically changed during Estrada's reign. It would be small wonder is she were remembered not as a defender of the truth, but as the defender of a crook.

Hussain M. Upam
Jeddah

Viva La Aunor

One of the most crucial events that tilted the balance against Estrada in the People Power revolution was the appearance of the movie legend Nora Aunor at Edsa, joining the hundreds of thousands protesters. That surprised all, the people as well as the demonstrators. She has been a zealous supporter of Estrada since he ventured into politics. So, her disclosure about Estrada's character was a turning point, and her defection triggered the withdrawal of support to the president by high-ranking officials like Orly Mercado, Ping Lacson, Alfredo Lim, Calimlim, Aglipay, and so onwhich eventually toppled his administration. La Aunor proved that she was still the superstar.

Nelson R. Garcia
Qassim

Claims about India

There is a lot of propaganda going on about India's development. It is said that its progress in the field of information technology will make it an economic tiger. That is absolutely wrong and misleading. Neither information technology nor human resources can beat the arms race.

India is losing millions of dollars to confront the Kashmir movement. Recently thousands and thousands Kashmiris voiced in favor of the "Fidayeens" (the attackers of Srinagar Airport). They were termed as martyrs. Muslims unanimously condemned the killings of these freedom fighters which is an eye-opening and embarrassing situation for India. It shows that Kashmiris are determined to live independently.

So far as Pakistan is concerned, it also cannot progress unless defense spending is reduced. India and Pakistan have deployed thousands and thousands of healthy young men on their borders. They ar[e]
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Kashmir issue keeping
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Hyderabad and Banglo[re]
be buried in Kashmir.

The only solution is [...]
Kashmir issue according
Nations resolutions. Tha[...]
tee prosperity for the su[...]

S[...]

Letters may be sent by post to PO Box 10452, Jeddah 21433; or by fax to 02-639 3223; or by e-mail to letters@arabnews.com Writers must give their addresses, telephone and ID numbers

Kingdom-Ind[...]

With the visit of India[...]
External Affairs Jaswant
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bus drivers who could not [...]
services in a professional [...]

arab news

SAUDI ARABIA'S FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY

Published simultaneously from Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam

VOL. XXVI NO. 69 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2001 — DUL QAADA 10, 1421 A.H. 20 PAGES 2 RIYALS



Arab News on Internet

All are now using the Internet to get quick access to all the information and all news sources. When will there be a web page for Arab News?

Hashim Ibrahim
Jeddah

In a very short time — Editor

Bus accidents

This has reference to the report on the bus accident involving pilgrims because of overspeeding (Jan. 27). As a person who has gone to umrah by bus many times, let me make a few observations.

One of the reasons for overspeeding is the strain on the drivers. Those on umrah and ziyarah trips drive for almost three consecutive nights. In their frustration, they break all speed limits, overtaking even vehicles on fast lanes. Limiting the trip only to umrah or only to ziyarah might give drivers adequate rest and sleep. There should be stipulated speed limits for buses and assigned traffic lanes. Their movements should be monitored by radar. It should be ensured that the buses comply with all safety rules such as seat belts for drivers and passengers, their road worthiness including the condition of their tires.

Another major problem (not a safety matter) the pilgrims face is when the buses stop in remote locations for prayers and refreshments. Toilets in most of these places are mostly are unusable. The inconvenience caused, especially to women and children, is imaginable. This problem must be addressed immediately. My impression is that pilgrims will be willing to pay a nominal fee for toilet facilities that are clean and have running water.

M.A. Saleem
Riyadh

Imposed unity

The killing of the innocent civilians in the land of Zanzibar is deplorable. Since the so called "unity" was imposed on the Islamic state of Zanzibar in April 1964 by Tanzanian dictator Julius Nyerere and by Abedi Karume, an immigrant from Nyasaland, the Muslims of the island, who constitute 95 percent of the entire population, have always been brutally suppressed and oppressed by the ruling CCM party — which is largely dominated by non-Muslims.

When Zanzibar gained independence from the British government in 1963, it became a member of the United Nations. But when the new Zanzibar government declared its intention to form a model Islamic state, it was orchestrated by Nyerere as a reincarnation of Arabization and revivalism of Islamization. They, therefore, invaded Zanzibar in the midnight of Jan. 11, 1964, under the self-appointed "Field Marshal" John Kello, a militant Christian from Uganda. The object of the Zanzibar revolution was a crusade against Islam as Kello wrote in his book "Revolution in Zanzibar" that God had appointed him to make revolution against the Muslims. And consequently, Zanzibar has lost its strong Islamic identity and sovereignty to Tanganyika since April 26, 1964.

This is a clear testimony that the "union" of Zanzibar and Tanganyika was the creation of the two late dictators, Nyerere and Karume, who signed the articles of the union, drafted by British expatriates, (Attorney-General Roland Brown and chief parliamentary Draftsman, P.R.N. Fifoot) to form Zanzibar. The constitution drafted by the British colonialists was' arbitrarily used by the Tanganyikan government as the interim constitution o
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arab news

SAUDI ARABIA'S FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY

Published simultaneously from Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam

VOL. XXVI NO. 115 THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2001 — DUL HIJJAH 27, 1421 A.H. 24 PAGES 2 RIYALS

End to dispute

The long row between Qatar and Bahrain is over. Their dispute has been settled amicably with their recourse to the International Court of Justice. It is a very good example set by the two Gulf states who, though small in size, are big in all other aspects. The other countries in the region who have similar disputes with their neighbors must follow the example. They must sit together and try solve their problems through discussions. If they fail to reach an agreement, the issue must be left to be judged by a neutral body acceptable to both the sides.

Congratulation to both Bahrain and Qatar.

Hashim Ibrahim
Jeddah

هنا تكمن السؤال وليس برفع الشعار او بالدينامكوجية العاطفية ضمن ظروف الشعب الفلسطيني الراهنة لا نجد من خيار سوى استمرار الانتفاضة الشعبية الفلسطينية لتحقيق الهدف الوطني الفلسطيني.

لذا فان هذا الامر يصبح مركز الثقل ويجب ان يصبح في التفكير والتخطيط والتنفيذ بحيث يتمكن الشعب الفلسطيني فعلا من الاستمرار بالانتفاضة ضمن برنامج لمراكمة الانتصارات الصغيرة مهما كانت صغيرة لتحول هذه التراكمات الكمية في النضال الشعبي الى لحظة التحول النوعي ولا بد هنا من توضيح بعض الامور حتى لا يستمر الخلط في ذهن البعض حول الانتفاضة وسدا يعني استمرارها.

يختلط الامر في ذهن البعض بحيث تصبح الانتفاضة واستمرارها مساوية لعدد القتلى والجرحى في صفوف الفلسطينيين. وهذا غير خطأ. وهذا يتسبب في الكثير من الحالات اندفاعات غير محسوبة تؤدي الى نتائج عكسية.

ان عملية التراكم الذي نريد لانتفاضتنا ان تحققها هي عملية تراكم في الخسائر التي نلحقها بالعدو وليس الخسائر التي يلحقها العدو بنا.

فتراكم خسائرنا لا يؤدي الا الى تغييرات نوعية لصالح العدو. بينما تراكم خسائر العدو يؤدي الى نقلة نوعية لصالح الشعب الفلسطيني.

ليست غايتنا الاستشهاد. بل ان غايتنا الانتصار وان تطلب ذلك ان نستشهد. فلا نخاف ولا نتردد في بذل الدم والروح في سبيل الوطن. نحن نسير قدما نحو ضمن خطة لمراكمة الانتصارات الصغيرة وليس الهزائم الصغيرة. فهذا الامر يتطلب حسن الادارة بعد ان تحسن التخطيط.

وادارة هذه المعركة طويلة الامد ليست سياسية فقط بل هي إضافة إلى ذلك اقتصادية واجتماعية وامنية وثقافية وفنية مختلفة جميعها بادارة اعلامية تليق بنضال هذا الشعب العظيم. وهذا يتطلب اولا ان تكون هناك إدارة خاصة لانتفاضة الشعب وان تضع السلطة تحت تصرفها كل ما تلزم احتياجاته وان يفصل العمل الجماهيري السلمي عن اي مغامرات عسكرية فردية. والا يسمح لاختراق مسلحين لا يعرفون حتى الآن ان مدى سرعة الكلاشنكوف هو بلاهدف فقط بينما رشاشات الإسرائيليين قادرة على القتل من المسلحين على مدى بعيد بكثير. ولا بد للسلطة من الاهتمام باحوال الشعب الاقتصادية والاجتماعية وقد تكون هذه الظروف افضل الظروف لتصحيح الاعوجاجات القائمة في بعض المجالات والتي سببت فقدان السلطة لمصداقيتها وشفافيتها.

من ناحية اخرى فإننا ناخذ على الذين يرفعون شعار الانتفاضة دون ان يضعوا برنامجا نضاليا لتامين شروط استمرارها فالجملة الثورية هنا لا تسمن ولا تغني إلا اصحابها.

وضمن البرنامج لا بد من تطبيق حازم لمقاطعة البضائع الإسرائيلية ليس بالتمني فقط و بالمناشدة بل بالإجراءات المحددة. وهذا يعني انه بعد مهلة زمنية لا بد من معاقبة كل من يستورد او يبيع بضاعة إسرائيلية. فكيف يمكن للثوريين ان يطالبوا الجماهير العربية بمقاطعة إسرائيل ووقف التطبيع ومقاطعة البضائع الأميركية قبل ان يبدأوا هم بمقاطعة السلع الإسرائيلية و التي يستوردها الإسرائيليون.

اذا كان التحدي الذي يواجهه الشعب الفلسطيني وسلطته الوطنية هو تحد يتطلب انتفاضة شعبية طويلة الامد فلا بد من تنظيم الامور في الشارع الفلسطيني والعلاقة بين الشارع والسلطة بشكل يضمن ليس فقط الاستمرارية بل التراكم الكمي الايجابي حتى تحصل النصر.

... الى اسمرة وسط تكهنات بانه سيجتمع بقيادة التجمع لتحديد موعد لقاء جديد بين البشير والميرغني وللعمل على ترتيب عقد مفاوضات مباشرة بين الحكومة والمعارضة من دون شروط مسبقة والاتجاه مباشرة الى الغاء الدستور الحالي. على ان تحضر المفاوضات مراقبون من دول ايقاد، ومصر وليبيا واي دول اخرى يوافق الجانبان عليها.

وبالرغم من ان الجانبين في الحكومة والمعارضة لم يصدر منهما رد فعل سريع ومباشر فانهما قد رحبا بالجلوس معا الى مائدة التفاوض وفقا للمقترح الارتري. ومع انه لم ترد اية اشارة في المقترحات الارترية الى الغاء او ارجاء الانتخابات الرئاسية والبرلمانية التي يمضي النظام قدما في عملية اجرائها الشهر المقبل فانها في مجملها تعني

... دون استثناء موحدة الكلمة مما يسد الذرائع امام الحكومة لايجاد اي منفذ للتنكر او الهروب من مواجهة هذه المقترحات المعقولة والمحددة التي لا يعني رفضها الا الرفض الصريح لحل ازمة الحكم والاصرار على حكم الحزب الواحد والفكر الواحد.

في كل الاحوال ستظهر مسألة الانتخابات جدية الحكومة من عدمها، ولكن يلزمنا ان نتوقف عند مقترح تشكيل حكومة انتقالية بتولي الدكتور الترابي رئاستها ووزرائها، انه مقترح له دلالات كبيرة وعميقة. اذ انه يعني اول ما يعني اسناد منصب رئيس الوزراء لاول مرة في تاريخ السودان الى شخصية من ابناء الجنوب، وهذا حدث يستحق الاشادة والتقدير. ثم انه يعني الجدية من جانب كل اهل الشمال في تنفيذ البرنامج

... في مجمل المقترحات المطروحة للوفاق فإننا لا نجد ان هناك خلافات تستحق الذكر فالتعددية الديمقراطية متفق عليها من الجانبين الحكومة والمعارضة، كذلك الاعتراف بالتعدد العرقي والديني والمساواة على اساس المواطنة وضمان حقوق الانسان وحرية العمل النقابي والحزبي والصحافي الى اخره. واذا كان ثمة خلاف فربما يكون حول الغاء الدستور ومع ذلك فان الحكومة اعلنت اكثر من مرة عن قبولها تعديله والمسافة بين تعديله وتبديله قطعا ليست كبيرة. لكن البشير قد يتخوف من ان الدستور الانتقالي قد يحد من صلاحيات سلطته كرئيس للجمهورية ويجعلها قاصرة على شؤون السيادة وهو امر من الطبيعي ان يحدث، وان يقبل به في ظل استحداث منصب رئيس وزراء، وفي ظل حكومة ...

... مستحد ... والاقل ... ان تحد ... القار ... الارت ... بأسيه ... المثال ... الامل ... النخ ... والعب ... العائد ... العرب ... هذا ال ... جهة ... تنكب

ترحب ادارة التحرير بالآراء الراغبة في مناقشة ما تنشره «الشرق الأوسط»

...310 / 8312311 / Email: editorial@asharqalawsat.com



اللوبي اليهودي والانتخابات الأميركية

● من هاشم ابراهيم ـ جدة

اليوم يتم انتخاب الرئيس الجديد للولايات المتحدة الأميركية، والذي سوف يدخل البيت الأبيض ويتربع على عرش أميركا بل سوف يحكم العالم أجمع، فإن الرئيس إما جورج بوش (الابن) عن الحزب الجمهوري او آل جور (نائب الرئيس الحالي بيل كلينتون) عن الحزب الديمقراطي حيث ان المنافسة بينهما شديدة، ولم يتم التعرف حتى الآن على من الذي سوف يفوز في الانتخابات الرئاسية التي تجري الآن. بالطبع هناك اصوات الناخبين اليهود ودعمهم المادي القوي للرئيس آل جور، والذي عين جوزيف ليبرمان (اليهودي) نائبا له في حملته الانتخابية، حتى يضمن الفوز في الانتخابات.

بما للوبي اليهودي من نفوذ شديد في أميركا وبالطبع فإن هذا سوف يؤدي الى المزيد من التأييد لإسرائيل من قبل الولايات المتحدة الأميركية في المرحلة المقبلة اذا ما انتخب آل جور رئيسا وهذا بالطبع سوف يكون له الاثر السلبي على الفلسطينيين



عامة والعرب خاصة. ويبدو ان جورج بوش (الابن) الذي حاز غالبية الاصوات للمسلمين الأميركان، قد يحقق التوازن ويأخذ خطا بعيدا عن التأييد الشديد لإسرائيل ووقوفه العادل مع القضية الفلسطينية، وهذا ما ينبغي ان يكون، اي التأثير على السياسة الأميركية من داخل أميركا من قبل العرب والمسلمين المقيمين بأميركا، وتكوين اللوبي العربي والاسلامي.

وذلك مما قد يكون له اثره الكبير في تحقيق نصرة الحق العربي في قضاياهم العادلة، وان يتخذ ذلك الموقف الذي من الممكن بأن يواجه التأثير الصهيوني الذي ينجم من جراء ما يقوم به اللوبي اليهودي داخل أميركا، من تأييد ودعم مادي ومعنوي قوي لإسرائيل، ومحاولة طمس الحق العربي امام الشعب الأميركي.

اننا نعلم تماما بأن الشعب الأميركي يقف مع الحقوق الشرعية ومواجهة اية تعديات من قبل اي طرف تجاه طرف آخر، حيث انه لديه مثل تلك القضايا المشابهة التي مر بها في تاريخه عند نشأة الولايات المتحدة الأميركية.



زمن الأمم المتحدة ومجلس الأمن.. هل له من نهاية؟

● من احمد سعيد ـ بروكسل

كما يعلم الجميع فإن الامم المتحدة بما فيها مجلس الامن هي اعلى سلطة في العالم، ولكن للاسف الشديد لم يتبق من هذه السلطة غير اسمها فقط ومن الحقيقة فإن اعلى سلطة في العالم هي أميركا، ومجلس الامن ما هو إلا وزارة خارجية أميركية، وتستخدم أميركا هذا الاسم لتمرير مخططاتها خصوصا على العرب والمسلمين مثل ما حدث بالعراق وليبيا وإيران وأفغانستان والسودان وعدم مصداقيتها في عملية السلام ووقوفها مع العدو الصهيوني في كل تجاوزاته وحمايته باستخدام الفيتو حتى لا تصدر في حقه اي قرارات، وكذلك في حماية الاقلية المسيحية في اندونيسيا (تيمور الشرقية)، واعطائها حكما مستقلا ولم تعط هذا الحق لكوسوفو او البوسنة والهرسك لانهم مسلمون، وايضا في تدخلها في شؤون الدول الاخرى.

باختصار أميركا تفعل ما تريد بهذا العالم ولا تجد من يقول لها كفى ومطلبي هو انسحاب جميع الدول العربية والاسلامية من هذا المجلس الامني الاميركي والامم المتحدة الاميركية والاكتفاء بالجامعة العربية كثيرا وكذلك منظمة المؤتمر الاسلامي فقط هذا هو المخرج الوحيد لنكون اقوى امة في العالم والا سوف نكون اداة لاميركا وحليفتها امثال بريطانيا

حـ...

● من ...

تعقيبا على ما و... 7978 بعنوان «اسلا... بقلم عبد الهادي ... بعنوان «لا الامارة ... محمد خالد محمو... ومنهما له مقالة ... وسماحة الاسلوب، ... حتى اكون منصف ... اطلاعا، وقد وردت ... والصفحة حتى ... هو المفصل بين ال... القضية

1 ـ جاء في ص... ابي طالب قوله عن ... عليه وسلم قال: ... شاب الله عز وجل ... ومن تركه كان في ... الله في اهل سمي ... في «أهل سمي» فقط ... الله ان المراة تكون ... فترجع الى ابيها وقد ... حرموا الصدقة بعد ... فضائل علي بن ابي ...

2 ـ قالت ام ... النبي صلى الله عليه ... من شعر اسود فيه ... الحسن فدخل معه ... فادخله، ثم قال: إنما ... البيت ويطهركم ... فضائل اهل البيت

لقد وافق هذا ... اكثر من ثلاثين مرة ... في صحيحه باب ... والترمذي في مسند ... بن حنبل ج 1 ص ... وتفسير ابن كثير ج 6 والبخاري في ... الحاكم ج 3 ص ... ومعجم الطبراني ج 1 ص ... وشواهد التنزيل للحاكم الحسكاني ج 2 ص 31 والاصابة لابن حجر العسقلاني ج 2 ص 502 وتذكرة الخواص لابن الجوزي ص 233 وتفسير الفخر الرازي ج 2 ص 700 وينابيع المودة للقندوزي الحنفي ص 107 ومناقب الخوارزمي ص 23 والسيرة الحلبية ...

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Printed at : مراكز الطباعة في العالم

جدة والرياض والدمام

شركة المدينة المنورة للطباعة والنشر
AL-Madina Printing & Publication Co.

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الانتخابات الأميركية اليوم: المترددون يمسكون بمفاتيح الرئاسة



واشنطن: محمد صادق

يتوجه الأميركيون اليوم الى صناديق الاقتراع لانتخاب أول رئيس للولايات المتحدة في القرن الحادي والعشرين. وفي آخر يوم من الحملة الانتخابية (الأطول والأكثر كلفة في تاريخ أميركا) تقلص أمس الفارق بين المرشح الجمهوري جورج بوش ومنافسه الديمقراطي آل غور في استطلاعات الرأي.

وفي حين يرى بعض المراقبين أن بوش سيحسم لصالحه معركة انتخاب الرئيس الـ 43 للولايات المتحدة، فإن البعض الآخر لا يزال يعتقد أن «أب الرئيس غور

مؤيدية في آخر لحظة نحو العمل بجد لدفع الناخبين الى صناديق الاقتراع لكن أهل الخبرة يشيرون الى أن الناخبين المترددين لم يحسموا امرهم هم الذين سيقررون نتيجة الانتخابات.

وأدى عدم انسحاب مرشح «حزب الخضر» رالف نادر اللبناني الأصل من المنافسة الى إزعاج غور بعد أن اتضح أن نادر سيتمكن من قضم أصوات الديمقراطيين في بعض الولايات مثل أوريغون وواشنطن. وسيخرج نادر من هذه المعركة فائزاً من حيث ترسيخ أقدام حزبه في الحياة السياسية الأميركية. وإضافة الى اختيار رئيس للولايات المتحدة سينتخب الأميركيون اليوم أيضاً أعضاء مجلس النواب الـ 435 و34 عضواً في مجلس الشيوخ من أصل 100 ويمثل مقعد نيويورك الذي تتنافس عليه الديمقراطية هيلاري كلينتون زوجة

الكونغرس. وأشارت استطلاعات الرأي أمس الى تقدم هيلاري مقابل 39 للازيو. كما تم اليوم أيضاً انتخاب 11 حاكماً والا المحلية والدعم العام ورؤساء أقسام الشرطة إضـ الى إجراء نحو 200 استفتاء حول مسائل عدة مثل التربية والمخدرات واقتناء الأسلحة ولم يبد المرشحان اثناء حملتهما الانتخابية مختلفين حول اسلوب إدارة الصراع في الشرق الأوسط. ومن المؤكد أن الرئيس المقبل سيسعى الى الظهور كوسيط حال في العملية لكن يبدو مستبعداً أن يتخلى عن الانحياز الأميركي تجاه اسرائيل

(تغطية شاملة ص 5 و6)

Saudi Gazette

سعودي جازيت

Saudi Gazette 25 Silver Jubilee

ISSUE No. 8792 ISSN (1319-0326)

FRIDAY 17 AUGUST 2001 / 27 JAMAD-AL-AWWAL 1422

...; Hail 5323731; Tabuk 4230096; Makkah 5587156, 5587187; Hassa 5922381; Najran 5222654; Jizan 317 0381; Yanbu 3223679; Jouf 6242320; Kharj 5484020; Arar 662 5741; Baha 7251869; Zulfi 4222343; Qurat 6424521; Dawadmi 6421065; Hutat Beni Tamim 5550777; Bisha 6225721.

SUBSCRIPTION SR800 (Saudi Arabia), SR800 abroad. Tel: Jeddah 672-2630 Ext. 335, Riyadh 465-3316, Dammam 859-5505.

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC)

ON THIS DAY

1424 – The English defeat the Scots and French at the Battle of Verneuil during the Hundred Years' War.

1585 – Spanish forces take Antwerp after a 14-month siege of Holland.

1850 – Denmark cedes all forts and property rights on the Gold Coast (now Ghana) of Africa to Britain.

1943 – In World War Two US forces under Patton relieve Messina, arriving just hours ahead of Montgomery's British Eighth Army, signaling the end of the Sicilian campaign.

1945 – Dr Sukarno claims independence for Indonesia from the Netherlands, setting up the Provisional Indonesian Republican Government.

1960 – Gabon regains independence from a harsh colonial rule of France.

1975 – The Soviet nuclear-powered ice-breaker Artika becomes the first surface ship to reach the North Pole.

1976 – A severe earthquake hits the southern Philippines island of Mindanao, leaving about 8,000 people dead.

1987 – Adolf Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess, an octogenarian prisoner, is found dead in his cell in Spandau Prison. He hanged himself with an electric cord.

1988 – Pakistani president Zia-ul-Haq is killed when his plane explodes after takeoff. The mystery – like the one surrounding the assassination of Pakistan's first prime minister Liaquat Ali Khan – was never uncovered.

1994 – Riots spread across Lesotho after "king" Letsie III dissolves the country's elected government.

1999 – A violent earthquake measuring 7.4 on the Richter scale strikes the western Turkish city of Izmit, southeast of Istanbul, killing more than 17,000 people.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Most people would rather die than think; in fact, they do so.
British philosopher **Bertrand Russell**.

LETTERS

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Arab League's task

Sir – Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa should convince Arab leaders to hold an emergency session so as to force Israel to stop its military violence against Palestinian civilians.

There are many issues Arab countries have to discuss among themselves and find the best possible solutions to them. Of course, many of the outstanding issues are already known to almost everyone, and they are sorted into a priority sequence for discussion. The major issue, however, is the Arab-Israeli conflict. Then the lifting of the UN sanctions against Iraq, Sudan and Libya.

Aren't those problems important enough to be discussed by the Arab League council? If the answer is no, then what are the issues that the Arab League should be discussing and holding the summits for?

Hashim Ibrahim Filali
Jeddah

Sharonic provocations

Sir – The situation in occupied Palestine is worsening. Israeli Premier Ariel Sharon has adopted a highly provocative policy. He is bent on the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians whose lands have been occupied illegally. Israeli occupation of Orient House, a symbol of Palestinian sovereignty, is an example of Sharon's provocative policies which will lead only to destruction.

The occupation of Orient House is a blatant violation of the Oslo accord, in which Israel made a commitment not to harm the Palestinian institutions in occupied Jerusalem. In fact there is a war-like situation in which Israel is using all its military might against the unarmed Palestinians. None but Sharon is responsible.

The Palestinians had opted for peace and gave Israel a number of privileges and concessions but in return Israel deceived them. It was an Israeli strategy to enter negotiations so that the first Intifada could lose its momentum and Israel would be able to crush it totally.

The US and its allies have condemned the Israeli actions but their concern does not go beyond verbal censure. A senior US official has described the Israeli action as "provocative and dange... they are not forcing Israelto stop them ... ing any sanctions on it. They have giv... hand to Sharon who is immune to hol... cisms. He knows well that their words a... of meaning.

Strong action from the US and its alli... surely force Israel to come to its senses.

You are right in your editorial "Increa... ger" (Saudi Gazette, August 12) that the... nations sit idly by in the face of the Israe... of civilians and violations of their basi... rights. The world community, especially t... sors of the Mid-east peace process, must ... political will to stop Israeli atrocities befor... uation gets worse.

Sharon's contention that he is under ... public pressure to take extreme action is... The Israelis have realized that Sharon is o... sion course that would bring about the... Israel. The Palestinians are fighting for th... vival and when one fights for surviv... becomes fearless and is prepared to ... everything, including life. The Palestinia... come to that stage and tomorrow they wil... umphant, Insha Allah.

The situation, meanwhile, requires a... Muslim reaction.

Ab...
Khamis M...

On the freedom trail

Sir – I've read comments by fellow re... Armando de Jesus (Saudi Gazette, Aug... Gilbert Ismael Gaspar (Saudi Gazette, May... Abdulrahim Sangki (Saudi Gazette, July 2...

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Jeddah

Saudi Gazette

سعودي جازيت

No. 8642 ISSN (1319-0326) □SAUDI ARABIA'S NATIONAL DAILY

TUESDAY

7 PAKISTAN

10-11 TIM

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A lesson for others

Sir – The way in which Bahrain and Qatar have solved a long-running territorial dispute over islands in the Gulf should teach other nations to sit together and resolve their conflicts in a way that is acceptable to both parties.

Hashim Ibrahim
Jeddah

Kofi Annan's bias

Sir – The UN came into existence in 1945 and resolutions on Kashmir were passed in 1948. On what basis has Secretary General Kofi Annan

تتم مناقشة قضية الشرق الأوسط. وعندما يتحدث الى جمهور كوبي ـ أميركي، يدور الحديث حول السياسة الكوبية. وعندما يتحدث الى الايرلنديين فسيعلق على عملية السلام. وفي السنوات الأخيرة استمع جماعات العمال او رجال الأعمال الى تعليقات بخصوص الصين او قضايا التجارة.

وكان الرئيس كلينتون قد دخل في عام 1982 على دعم جماعات الاقليات وسط اوروبا عندما واجه قلقهم بخصوص توسيع مجال حقوق الانسان والديمقراطية في هذا الجزء من العالم.

والأمر الهام الذي يجب تذكره في كل هذه القضايا هو عدم وجود فروق اساسية في نظرة كل من الحزبين الاساسيين. ونقاط الاختلاف، إذا وجدت، تعتمد على فروق غير ملحوظة مثل الفروق الشخصية، والمصداقية، وصفات الزعامة او الرؤية.

فكل من بوش وغور يؤيدان التدخل الاميركي ويدعمان مبدأ حرية التجارة مع الصين. غير ان بوش يرفض سياسة غور ـ التدخل البناء ـ مع الصين ويفضل التعامل مع هذه الدولة كعدو. ويتهم غور بتجاهل بالقي الملفات في آسيا. بينما يؤيد بوش التعامل مع الجمهورية الروسية الجديدة، ولكنه يتهم غور بالمبالغة في تحويل علاقة الولايات المتحدة مع روسيا الى علاقة شخصية بالتركيز اكثر من اللازم على العلاقات الشخصية مع القيادات الروسية.

كما يتهم بوش الادارة الاميركية بتخفيض تمويل المؤسسة العسكرية الاميركية وإرهاقها، قائلا ان الرئيس كلينتون قد اضعف القوات المسلحة بالزامها بعديد من المهمات الانسانية.

ومن ناحية اخرى يشير غور الى نجاح الادارة الاميركية، ويلاحظ خبرته في السياسة الخارجية (ولاسيما الهيئات الثنائية التي يرأسها مع كل من مصر وروسيا واوكرانيا). ويشكك في مستوى استعداد بوش في تولي زمام القيادة في القضايا العالمية.

وينتقد غور اسلوب بوش المحافظ بالنسبة للتدخل. ويشير الى التزام الاخلاقي والاستراتيجي للولايات المتحدة لتولي زمام القيادة في التعامل مع الكوارث الانسانية في هايتي وكوسوفو وافريقيا الوسطى. ويشير ايضا الى ان بوش لم يخرج من عقلية الحرب الباردة التي ترفض النظر الى روسيا والصين الا كأعداء.

وحتى في اطار هذه المناظرة يمكن ملاحظة كيف يتعامل كل من الطرفين مع جماعات الناخبين المختلفة. فعندما انتقد بوش

[...] اكثر اشكالها تشددا هي صراع على القوة. وفي الوجود الداخلي الاميركي، فإن ادوات هذا الصراع هي اصوات الناخبين والمال والعمل. ولسنوات طويلة، حقق جانب نجاحا، بينما لم يحقق جانبنا اي نجاح. وبالتالي نجحوا في تشكيل السياسة لانهم فازوا في السباق الذي لم نشارك فيه.

لقد بدأنا قبل عقدين من الزمن في المشاركة في مثل هذا السباق في محاولة لخلق توازن في المعادلة. ولم يكن الأمر سهلا. ففي البداية استبعدنا وهددنا وتعرضنا للمضايقات بل وللاعتداءات العنيفة. ولكننا صمدنا ونحقق الآن نجاحا.

ولأن الجالية العربية الاميركية اصبحت معروفة ككتلة انتخابية لها وزنها، فإن قدرتها على صياغة المناقشات حول السياسة مع المسؤولين الذين يمثلونهم في مختلف المناطق اصبحت افضل بكثير. يضاف الى ما سبق ان ما يزيد على 100 عضو في الكونغرس ساندوا مواقف العرب ضد إجراء «الملفات السرية» ومعاقبة مواطني العراق الأبرياء.

لا شك ان هناك الكثير مما ينبغي عمله. إلا ان ما يجب لفت الانتباه اليه هو ان مرشحي الرئاسة يغازلان الآن وبنشاط ناخبي الجالية العربية الاميركية في ميتشغان التي تعتبر ساحة تنافس مهمة في انتخابات هذا العام. فقد خاطب جو ليبرمان اعضاء الجالية العربية الأميركية هناك مؤكدا انه غير موقفه المؤيد لنقل سفارة الولايات المتحدة في إسرائيل إلى القدس. كما ان بوش التقى بعض افراد الجالية العربية الأمريكية وتحدث في مناقشته الرئاسية الأخيرة عن اهتمامات الجالية ومخاوفها تجاه إجراءات «الأدلة السرية». والتقى غور ثلاث مرات بأفراد من الجالية العربية الأميركية وتعهد بتجديد اللقاء معهم لمناقشة آرائهم حول موقفه من تجاه عملية السلام في الشرق الأوسط و«الأدلة السرية» و«إعداد الملفات الشخصية» ضد العرب في الولايات المتحدة.

رغم العطاء فإن تقدما احرز في أكثر من جبهة. ومن المؤكد انه ما يزال هناك الكثير الذي يجب عمله. إلا انه إذا كان لا بد من طرح قضايا الشرق الأوسط في عام انتخابات الرئاسة الحالي وإذا كان لا بد من تغيير الإجماع الحزبي الموالي لإسرائيل، حتى ولو بشكل طفيف في اتجاه توازن معقول، فإن الجالية العربية الأميركية هي التي ستحدث ذلك.

*رئيس المعهد العربي ـ الأميركي في واشنطن ومستشار آل غور لشؤون الأقليات



العنف في الأراضي العربية المحتلة.. متى ينتهي؟

● من هاشم ابراهيم ـ جدة

انه شيء أليم وفظيع كل هذا الذي يحدث من حولنا من فظائع ترتكب بشناعة ليس لها مثيل من قبل الإسرائيليين المدججين بالاسلحة مع المواطنين الفلسطينيين العزل، وانها لمشاهد اليمة اصبحنا نراها ولا نستطيع ان نفعل شيئا تجاهها، ونرى ونسمع كل هذا يرتكب ونقف مكتوفي الايدي لا نستطيع ان نمنع تلك الوحشية التي تذبح اخواننا في الاراضي الفلسطينية. انه ان دل على شيء فانما يدل على ان العرب ليست لديهم تلك المقومات التي تحافظ على اعراضهم وكرامتهم. فها هم يرون ما يحدث من قبل الاسرائيليين ولا يستطيعون ان يفعلوا شيئا تجاه كل تلك المآسي التي نعيشها. فهل هذا هو منطق القوة او غطرسة القوة التي تمارس من قبل اليهود والصهاينة. لانهم يعلمون ان العرب لن يقووا على ردعهم او منعهم مما يفعلون ويقومون به من اعتداءات على العرب؟ اين هذا السلام الذي يدعون انهم يريدونه؟ واين كل تلك الاتفاقيات والمعاهدات التي وقعت بينهم وبين الفلسطينيين في كل تلك السنوات التي توالت بدءاً باتفاقيات مؤتمر مدريد واوسلو وواي ريفر وشرم الشيخ واخيرا كامب ديفيد 2 التي فشلت وتسببت في حدوث مثل هذه المجازر الوحشية التي ترتكب في الاراضي الفلسطينية، وانفجار موجة العنف هذه التي نعيشها الآن. اين تطبيق القرارات الدولية التي صدرت من مجلس الامن رقم 242 و338 والتي تدعو اسرائيل بالعودة إلى خطوط ما قبل حرب 1967م؟ اين تلك الضغوط الدولية من قبل الغرب من اجل الحفاظ على مصداقية ما يصدر من قرارات دولية واحترام لكل تلك الاتفاقيات التي تمت ووقعت بين الفلسطينيين والاسرائيليين، ام انها فقدت مصداقيتها؟ هل ظهر الوجه البشع الحقيقي للاسرائيليين الذي يتخفى وراء شعارات السلام، فلم يستطع ان يقاوم انتهاكه للمقدسات الدينية من اجل الفتك بالفلسطينيين؟ اننا نطالب ان نعود إلى مائدة المفاوضات من اجل الحل العادل والشامل للقضية الفلسطينية، وان تكون هناك ضغوط من قبل الغرب خاصة الولايات المتحدة على اسرائيل من اجل الالتزام بكل تلك القرارات التي صدرت والمعاهدات التي وقعت وتطبيق ما جاء فيها، واعادة الحقوق العربية إلى اصحابها، وفقا للشرعية الدولية. ان المقاومة الفلسطينية سوف تستمر ونزيف الدماء سوف يظل. انه كفاح خمسين عاما مضت، ويمكن ان يستمر خمسين عاما اخرى، من اجل استعادة الحقوق العربية المغتصبة، ولن يتنازل اي عربي عن شبر واحد من الحق العربي المشروع.



ترحب ادارة التحرير بآراء القراء
[...]ial@asharqalawsat.com

ليست شعارات

● من ساعد بريشتينا سفير البوسنة والهرسك ـ [...]

كتبت هدى الحسيني، الأوسط، العدد 7984 بتاريخ 7/10/2000م بعنوان «صمعا يا صربيا» تبدي فيها [...] بهتافات الصرب لقد مظاهراتهم الاخيرة التي [...] ميلوشيفيتش، كما تبدي [...] من بعض قادة العرب الذين يستصغرون هذا الشعب [...] تعبيرها، مشيدة بما اطلق [...] ما قتلت فيه قوات الاط[...] افتقاره للسلاح الا من سلا[...] وهو الشعب نفسه الذي [...] مشى من وراء جائفه في [...] مرات يوغوسلافيا السابقة صربيا: لم تصف كيفية [...] القوى الصربية من جيش وعصابة ارثوذكسية للثورة يعما لمسيرة الحرية والدي[...] التي تعشقها.

وتنهي المقال بقول: صحافية صربية لها ان [...] الصرب ما هو الا دليل [...] مدى تمسكه وايمانه با[...] والديمقراطية. وان كل ما [...] مصير الدكتاتور السابق [...] لمحكمة صربية عقابا لما [...] ضرر بصربيا والصرب فقط [...] حسبتها متمنية لسعر [...] محققها ان يحتوا حتو[...]

توضيح لغموض مقتل إ[...]

● من المهندس عبد الر[...] الحمدي عضو مجلس [...]

قرأت جريدتكم المنشور في [...] 1421هـ الموافق 5 اكتوبر 2000 [...] الرئيس الراحل ابراهيم محمد [...] الشرقة، وبشكركم على الاهتمام [...] اليمن عموما. استوقفني [...] الراحل واخاه عبد الله محمد الـ[...] 11 اكتوبر 1977م في ظروف [...] اوضح هذا الغموض الذي [...] الرئيس الراحل ابراهيم ا[...] الله الحمدي استشهدا [...] خيانة نفذها احمد الغشمي [...] عندما دعي الشهيدين لتناول [...] احمد الغشمي في مدينة صنعاء [...] كذلك تمت تصفية عدد من [...] فتات رغيرة والنقيب عبد الله [...] ارجو نشر هذا التوضيح [...] وايصال الحقيقة اليهم. [...] الناس على ايصال الحقيقة [...] كل البلدان، كما ان هذا [...] وللعلم ان يوم الاربعاء 11 [...] الذكرى الثالثة والعشرين [...] الشعب اليمني.

COVERING THE BASES

Your publication amazes me with its mass of information. You cover almost every single issue in the networking field, and you provide timely and in-depth views about what is going on. Your magazine gives excellent support. Please continue to cover all the rapid updates in technology.

Dr. Hashim Ibrahim
Industrial Engineer
Learning Tree
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

ALIEN CROSSTALK: THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE

Your article "What Comes After Category 5?" (July 1999, page 44) gave an excellent overview of Category 5 cable and the emerging standards.

Although Category 5 is the standard of choice at the moment, many companies are looking beyond Category 5 to Category 5e or even Category 6 to accommodate their long-term networking requirements. However, to those readers considering upgrading, I would like to offer a few words of warning. As the article suggests, with the introduction of Gigabit Ethernet and other media protocols using parallel transmission schemes, the level of cable-to-cable interference has risen dramatically. One type of interference is the phenomenon known as Alien Crosstalk, which is the interference caused by a pair of wires inducing noise onto another pair of wires in an adjacent cable.

Tests conducted by our research and development lab on recently released Category 5e/Category 6 cabling found that products available from many vendors do not account for the presence of Alien Crosstalk. This raises serious concerns about the performance of some cabling products and their ability to deliver the power needed for the more demanding applications of the future.

A properly designed UTP cable that takes Alien Crosstalk into account may be less susceptible to the phenomenon. However, the only copper solutions that can guarantee complete immunity to Alien Crosstalk are those that incorporate 100Ohm, screened, balanced, twisted pairs—also known as Screened Twisted Pairs (SCTPs) or Foil Twisted Pairs (FTPs).

Networking professionals should put this requirement at the top of their checklists when considering network cabling investments.

Larry Paniccia
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INCLUSION DETECTION

My name is Ron Gula, and I wrote the Dragon Intrusion Detection System (IDS) product. A colleague of mine pointed out an article you wrote ("Security Reality Check," July 1999, page 80) mentioning that Network Flight Recorder (NFR) was the only packet IDS that reassembled TCP/IP network sessions. I couldn't trace the article, so please forgive me if I am putting words in your mouth.

I wanted to let you know that Dragon has been doing full network-session reconstruction since June 1999, and ISS's latest version of RealSecure handles this as well. There are even some free APIS that can reassemble TCP network flows. NFR's network session reassembly is not really a distinguishing feature anymore.

Ron Gula
President
Network Security Wizards
Columbia, MD
rgula@network-defense.com

One of the main points made in the Newsham/Ptacek paper, which was referenced in the article, was that even when a product handles packet reassembly, it cannot detect all attacks. This is because there are two ways of reassembling packets: RFC 791 specifies one way, but Sun Microsystems and Microsoft do it another way. So if the monitored network contains a mixture of Hewlett-Packard and Windows workstations, either the IDS attempts to reassemble packets both ways or (more likely) chooses one, missing what may be attacks in the process.

There are other problems with IDSs, some of which appear impossible to solve. But IDSs can still be a part of network security. —**Rik Farrow**

LETTERS WELCOME

***Network Magazine* encourages letters from readers. Please tell us about your network-related problems—or solutions—and whether you agreed with, disagreed with, or didn't like an article. Include your name, company name, address, and daytime telephone number. Here's how to reach us:**

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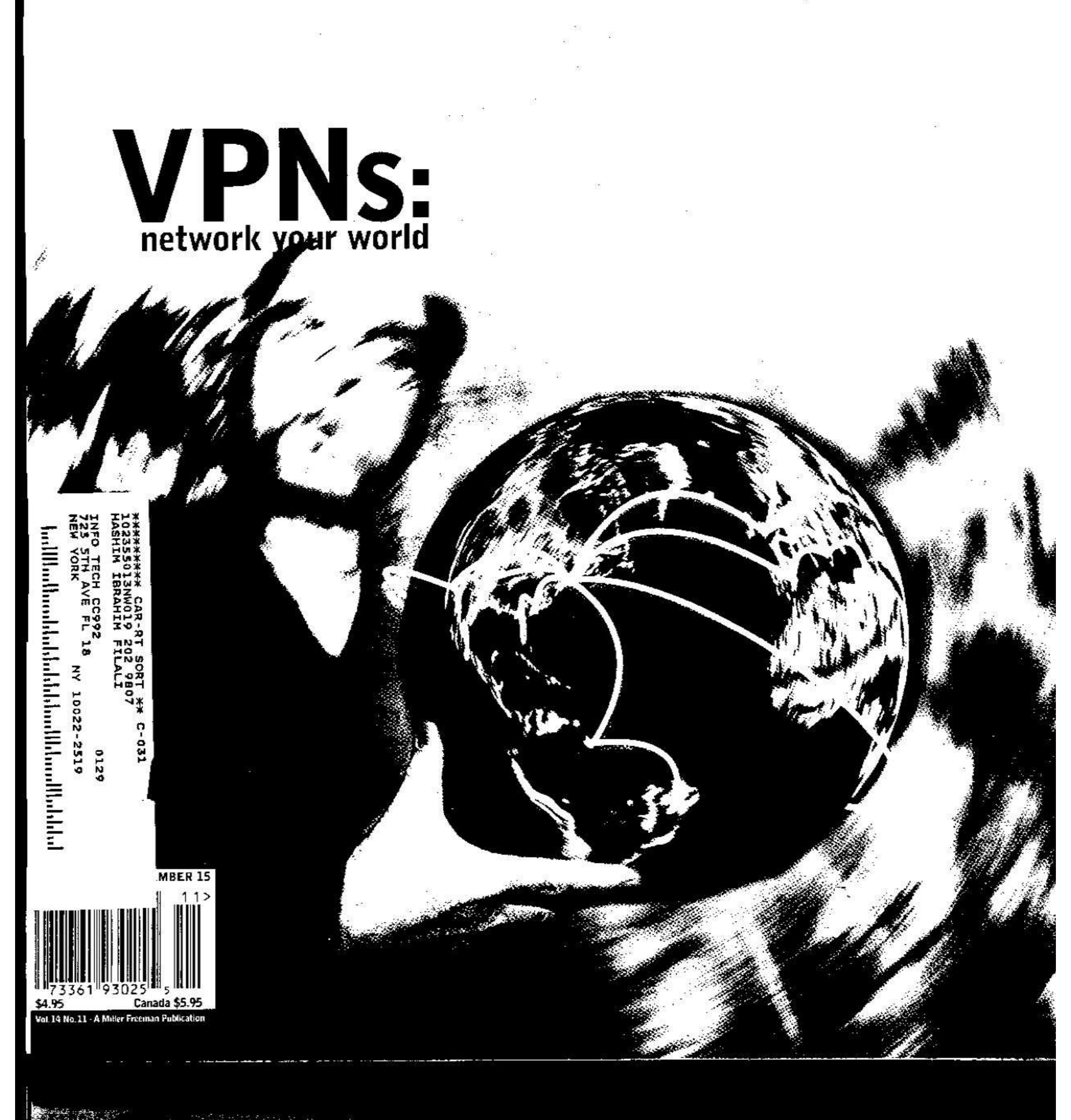
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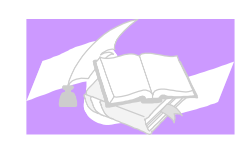
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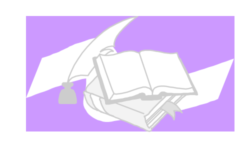
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arab news

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